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STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 72, No. 2434

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MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

Cooks rescued missile unit from failure

New details reveal launch officers' performance was poorer than previously reported

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Failings exposed last spring at a U.S. nuclear missile base, reflecting what one officer called "rot" in the ranks, were worse than originally reported, according to Air Force documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Airmen responsible for mis-

sile operations at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., would have failed their portion of a major inspection in March 2013 but managed a "marginal" rating because their poor marks were blended with the better performance of support staff — like cooks and facilities managers — and they got a boost from the base's highly rated training pro-

gram. The "marginal" rating, the equivalent of a "D" in school, was reported previously. Now revealed are details of the low performance by the launch officers, or missileers, entrusted with the keys to missiles.

"Missileer technical proficiency substandard," one briefing slide says. "Remainder (of missile operations team) raised

grade to marginal."

The documents also hint at an exam-cheating problem in the making among launch crews at Minot, almost a full year before allegations of widespread cheating erupted this January at a companion nuclear base in Montana.

SEE TEST ON PAGE 2



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KARIM KADIM/AP

AF leaders detail force cuts, defend faith policy

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders detailed future force cuts and defended the service's religious accommodation practices after coming under attack from conservative lawmakers at a congressional budget hearing Friday.

When presenting the fiscal 2015 budget request and the Future Years Defense Program last week, the Air Force announced that it wants to eliminate the entire A-10 close air support fleet and the U-2 spy plane fleet, and significantly reduce the number of F-15 and F-16 fighters, and MQ-1 drones, because of budget constraints imposed by Congress. Pentagon leaders want to use the resulting savings to invest in modernization and readiness.

The budget request must be approved by Congress. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III said a congressional decision to protect these programs would necessitate cuts in higher-priority programs and lead to imbalances in the force. As an example, Welsh said that saving the A-10 would force the service to cut back on the number of F-35, F-16 and F-15 fighters.

SEE CUTS ON PAGE 4

A girl passes by a banner for the Jaafari Personal Status Law that reads, "The Jaafari Personal Status Law is for you and all of us," in Baghdad on Thursday. The proposed law, aimed at the Iraqi Shiite community, would open the door to marriage for girls as young as 9.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In the centenary year (of the start of World War I), to be able to remember those who've fallen, and for it by your kith and kin, how can you find the words?"

—Stephen McLeod, after a ceremony Friday in France in which his relative William McAleer and other British WWI casualties were reburied

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MILITARY

Test: Missileers' scores dropped significantly after 2013 inspection

FROM FRONT PAGE

An official inquiry into the troubled inspection of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot in March 2013 concluded that one root cause was poor use of routine testing and other means of measuring the proficiency of launch crews in their assigned tasks. For example, commanders at Minot did not ensure that monthly written tests were supervised. The analysis also said Minot senior leaders failed to foster a "culture of accountability."

In a more direct hint at fudging on exams, one document said, "Group testing was viewed as 'taking care of each other,'" while adding that the missileers felt pressure to score 100 percent on every test. Those are echoes of explanations Air Force leaders have recounted from launch officers in the aftermath of the cheating scandal that surfaced in early January at the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. At least 92 officers at Malmstrom have been removed from launch duty for allegedly cheating or tolerating cheating by others, pending an investigation whose results may be released by the end of this month.

The allegation at Malmstrom is that information on "emergency war orders" exams, which test how a launch crew would handle classified messages related to missile targeting and launch, was shared in advance among launch officers. It's not clear whether this or other forms of cheating have taken place at the Air Force's two other ICBM bases, but numerous former missileers have said in recent weeks that cheating does occur.

The Air Force operates a total

of 450 Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles, divided evenly among the three bases.

An ICBM base has many interconnected pieces, including security forces that provide protection for the missiles and for the underground launch control centers, as well as commanders and others who work from a headquarters base. But at the mission's core are the missileers and their mastery of "emergency war orders," the secret messages that would authorize a launch. They are supported in the missile field by personnel known as facility managers, who run above-ground support buildings where security forces and others sleep and where cooks prepare meals for the full team.

The Air Force initially called the overall March inspection a "satisfactory," a "satisfactory" reflecting the fact that the 91st Missile Wing as a whole was rated "satisfactory." But after The Associated Press learned in May about the "marginal" performance in the missile operations sector of the inspection, the service disclosed that 19 officers had been forced to surrender their launch authority in April because of performance and attitude problems. That was an unprecedented mass sidelining of launch control officers, reflecting what the 91st's deputy operations commander at the time, Lt. Col. Jay Folds, called "rot" in the force.

Until now, however, it was not publicly known that of 11 crews tested on a launch simulator for the inspection, three were rated Q3, or "unqualified," which the Air Force defines as demonstrating "an unacceptable level of safety, performance or knowledge." Five of the 11 earned a top



The launch key mechanism at the deactivated Delta Nine Launch Facility near Wall, S.D., is shown in 2002.

rating and three got a second-tier rating.

The Minot crews performed much better in a September re-assessment. Eleven of 12 launch crews received top qualification ratings, although one was rated unqualified with "one critical and one major error." In back-to-back inspections this January, the 91st as a whole was given outstanding marks.

The newly available Air Force documents were released to a private group in Philadelphia .Speaking Truth to Power, after the group filed suit asserting that U.S. Strategic Command, which oversees all U.S. nuclear forces, had not provided documents requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Speaking Truth to Power, headed by Jules Zacher, advocates for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He shared the documents with the AP.

One newly released document said the Minot wing in North Dakota had shown signs of weakness much earlier. In an April-May

2010 "combat capability evaluation," two of 13 launch crews tested on the use of a launch simulator were deemed "unqualified." Eight rated "substantially qualified" and three "qualified." By comparison, of 32 crews who underwent the same evaluation at the two other ICBM bases in 2011, 31 were rated either highly qualified or qualified and only one unqualified.

On routine written tests, the Minot group did exceptionally well until the spring of 2013. In assessing the problems at Minot, the Air Force produced an analysis of test data that showed that in the two years prior to the March 2013 inspection, 87 percent of all tests resulted in perfect scores. In the three months following the weak inspection, 46 percent of test scores were perfect, including just 20 percent in May.

It also found that errors on monthly written tests and errors on launch control simulators soared after the March inspection.

Officials identify airman charged in sailor's death in Germany

Stars and Stripes

Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver has been charged with murder and related offenses in connection with the death of a sailor in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

"On March 10, 2014, charges of murder and other violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice were preferred against [Oliver]

of American Forces Network-Europe," Sandra Archer, spokeswoman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

"Oliver is charged with assaulting and strangling to death Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov, 31, also of AFN-E, on or about Dec. 14, 2013," she wrote. "Oliver is also charged with ob-

struction of justice and making false statements about Chepusov's death. An Article 32 hearing will be scheduled to inquire into the truth of the matters set forth in the charges and recommend whether the charges should be adjudicated at a court-martial."

Chepusov was declared dead by German medical authorities Dec. 14 after being found in a ve-

hicle in Kaiserslautern.

Stars and Stripes first reported on Dec. 19 that a German judge had charged an unnamed U.S. servicemember with manslaughter in connection with Chepusov's death. Air Force officials refused to identify Oliver, 34, until he had been charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



STARS AND STRIPES

MIDEAST

Afghanistan candidate ready to sign BSA

By KIM GAMEL
The Associated Press

KABUL — Abdullah Abdullah, a front-runner in April's presidential race in Afghanistan, vowed Thursday to sign a security agreement with the United States within a month if he wins, echoing widespread Afghan fears that security will deteriorate even further if all international forces leave the country at the end of this year.

Abdullah, who was runner-up in the disputed 2009 election, criticized President Hamid Karzai for refusing sign the deal that would allow the U.S. and its allies to keep thousands of troops in Afghanistan after ending their 13-year combat mission.

He told The Associated Press that international assistance is still needed to promote security and stability in Afghanistan.

"We think and we believe that we have not reached a point where we can do it ourselves," he said during an interview at his heavily guarded home in Kabul. "We need to sign it in order to reach the point where Afghanistan can stand on its own feet in terms of security, to speed up that phase rather than creating a halt in between which is what's happening today."

When asked how long it would take to reach the agreement if he is named president, he said: "I think that maximum it has to be signed within a month."

The issue has been a major thorn in troubled relations between Karzai and the U.S., with major security concerns and billions of dollars in aid money at stake.

The two countries agreed to a deal last year after months of negotiations, but the mercurial Afghan leader surprised the Americans by refusing to sign it and ignored

'We think and believe that we have not reached a point where we can do it ourselves.'

Abdullah Abdullah
Afghanistan
presidential
candidate

Abdullah is the only one so far to give a public time frame to sign it.

He also said he would "keep the door open for negotiations with the Taliban," which have sputtered under Karzai, but he stressed the need to protect the people "against those who are not entering the talks." The Taliban have threatened voters and vowed violence to disrupt the vote, which they called an American conspiracy.

Abdullah, 53, looked tired and somber after days of mourning his friend, Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who died Sunday. Fahim, a key political player who held the rank of field marshal, supported Abdullah's campaign.

Abdullah enjoys a strong advantage in name recognition and political organization and is considered one of three main contenders. The others are Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, who chairs a commission overseeing the transition of security responsibilities from NATO to Afghan forces; and Zalmay Rassoul, who has been a national security adviser and is seen as close to Karzai.

the recommendations of a council of more than 2,500 Afghan elders to do so.

With many Afghans increasingly worried about a future without international support, other candidates have professed support for the agreement, but

There are seven other candidates after Karzai's brother Qayyum dropped out of the race and threw his support behind Rassoul. With the field divided, a runoff vote is widely expected.

Abdullah — who is half Pashtun and half Tajik — was a close aide to the late Ahmad Shah Masood, the Northern Alliance rebel commander who was killed in an al-Qaida suicide bombing two days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He has a strong following among ethnic Tajiks but has sought to broaden his support base by choosing a well-known leader of the minority ethnic Hazara group and a Pashtun leader of the powerful Hezb-i-Islami group as vice presidential candidates.

Abdullah, who in 2009 dropped out just ahead of a runoff vote following allegations of massive vote-rigging in the first round, said he is worried that history will repeat itself. Many Afghans and international officials believe fraud is inevitable.

Campaign posters are plastered across Kabul, but experts say the race will be won based on alliances as tribal and ethnic ties run deep in Afghanistan.

Martine van Bijlert, co-director of the independent research group Afghanistan Analysts Network, said Rassoul is "presenting a ticket of continuity" because of his implied support from Karzai.

"Abdullah's very much seen as a northern candidate and he is sort of seen as part of the old generation of politicians. He's always presented himself as the opposition, so both he and Ashraf Ghani are in a way vying for the position of opposition," she said.



MASOOD HOSSAIN/AP

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah, a front-runner in the race to succeed Hamid Karzai, says he will sign a security agreement with the United States within a month if he wins the vote.

US commander: More focus on Haqqani militants

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Allied and Afghan forces are putting a greater focus on going after the Haqqani militant network, which has threatened to disrupt the Afghan presidential elections in April, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Thursday.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford told Pentagon reporters that the more energized effort against the Haqqanis includes a U.S. move to "crank up the heat" on the group's financing and freedom of movement.

The Haqqani network has been more active in some ways over the last few months and so we have energized our efforts accordingly," said Dunford, who has been in town to testify on Capitol Hill this week.

The group has made it clear it will conduct high-profile attacks to disrupt the political process and create the perception of insecurity as Afghans go to the polls.



Dunford

authorities to move more aggressively against the militants, who are based in North Waziristan and routinely cross the border to conduct attacks against U.S. and coalition troops.

Dunford also gave reporters and lawmakers greater details on the U.S. plans as the war winds down and combat operations end on Dec. 31.

Officials have long said the coalition of NATO and allied nations would leave 8,000 to 12,000 troops in the country to advise and assist Afghan forces as long as Afghanistan's leaders sign a

key security agreement.

In addition to that, Dunford said the U.S. would leave "some thousand" troops — largely special operations forces — to continue to conduct counterterrorism operations.

He said that any U.S. counterterrorism operations beyond 2014 would focus on al-Qaida, but since the Haqqani network presents the greatest threat to security forces, the U.S. would do whatever necessary to protect the troops.

U.S. officials have said they want to leave about 10,000 troops in Afghanistan, but it's not clear if the counterterrorism forces would be in addition to that.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, however, has refused to sign the agreement, prompting the White House to order the Pentagon to begin planning for a full withdrawal by the end of this year.

Dunford told members of the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday that he would need 102 days to conduct an

orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops and equipment and complete the transfer of any bases to the Afghans. As a result, he said the U.S. can wait until September for the Afghans to sign the agreement, but waiting beyond that would begin to make the withdrawal far more risky.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said that the longer it takes to get the agreement signed, the more difficult and expensive a full withdrawal will be. And he said a shorter timeline will make it harder for troops to focus on any other mission except the dismantling of the bases and removal of equipment and forces from the country.

The Pentagon is currently planning to cut the total American force in Afghanistan to as low as 20,000 by midsummer, giving commanders the ability to pull all troops out by Dec. 31 if no agreement is reached. There are currently about 33,600 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Official: Bomb kills 6 in southern Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A senior Afghan government official says a roadside bomb in the southern Helmand province has killed six civilians, including two women and two children.

Mohammed Sharif, district chief of Musa Qala district in Helmand, said on Friday that the bomb ripped through a vehicle the previous night, killing everyone inside.

No one has taken responsibility for the attack but Taliban insurgents fighting Afghan forces routinely target military vehicles with improvised explosive devices throughout the south and east of the country. Civilian vehicles traveling the same roads often drive over and set off the hidden devices.

Many residents in Helmand say the Taliban rule in much of the countryside, while the government controls the district centers. The militant group has also threatened violence ahead of the country's April 5 presidential election.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

Hagel meets with brass on sex assault review

By Tom Vanden Brook

USA Today

WASHINGTON — Leaders from each of the armed services were briefing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Friday on the criteria they have used to screen out problem troops from serving as sexual assault counselors, recruiters and instructors, according to a Defense Department official.

The Army disqualified 588 soldiers after its review, while the Marine Corps found that all its Marines had passed muster. Hagel could require all the services to comply with a single standard, possibly the Army's approach, or another one entirely, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because Hagel has not made a decision.

The meeting comes after USA Today reported on the results of the services' screening, which Hagel ordered last year in reaction to what the Pentagon referred to as a sexual assault crisis in the ranks.

USA Today found that the Army screened more than 20,000 soldiers serving as counselors, recruiters and instructors. The Navy announced Wednesday that it had disqualified 151 of 20,000 sailors surveyed after initially rejecting just five sailors. The Air Force disqualified two airmen.

"In May 2013, the secretary

directed each service to review sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates and recruiters to ensure they meet applicable selection criteria and standards of conduct," Army Lt. Col. Catherine Wilkinson, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said in a statement. "Each service has fully complied."

"During the review, some of the services identified additional personnel categories and screening criteria. The department is currently reviewing those additional categories and criteria and may provide additional guidance for the entire department. We will provide the final results of any additional screening," she said.

Offenses that disqualified soldiers included sexual assault,

child abuse or a number of less-violent violations of the law, including reckless driving. The Army says to discharge 79 of the 588 disqualified soldiers.

Members of Congress, including Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., on the Armed Services Committee, have called on the services to rescreeen troops and abide by a single, stringent standard for those in what the military calls "positions of trust."

Speier made that request in a letter to Hagel this week and amplified it in a speech on the House floor on Thursday. She chided the Pentagon for not being more transparent about its reviews, saying they came to light because

USA Today had pushed for them.

"Choosing the wrong people for these positions of trust is a betrayal for our troops," she said.

The services have more than 25,000 uniformed and civilian advocates for victims of sexual assault. The National Organization for Victim Assistance, an independent, nonprofit organization, began certifying them in 2012. The Navy says the majority of sailors it had disqualified lacked proper training or certification.

"Victims can be confident they have access to professional victim advocates and will be treated with dignity and respect throughout their recovery," Wilkinson said.

South Korean and U.S. warships participate in their joint military drill "Foal Eagle" in South Korea's East Sea on Friday. South Korea said North Korea fired seven suspected artillery shells into the ocean on Tuesday in what South Korea called a provocation apparently directed against its ongoing military drills with the United States.

SOUTH KOREAN NAVY
VIA YONHAP/AP

Ocean drills



New Navy policy may mean more time at sea for sailors

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Some shore-based enlisted sailors might find themselves back at sea sooner than expected under a new Navy policy.

The policy, announced Thursday, allows the Navy to pull enlisted sailors from shore duty early when sea duty vacancies outnumber the sailors available. It applies to enlisted sailors E-4 and above who are approaching or beyond their two-year mark on shore.

Sailors selected for early return to sea duty will have 30 days to appeal the decision.

The Navy has also announced

that detailers now will be able to issue transfer orders up to six months before or after sailors' projected rotation dates. The change is designed to give detailers more flexibility to fill requirements, the Navy said. Voluntary programs such as the Chief Petty Officer Early Return to Sea and the Voluntary Sea Duty Program have helped but not completely filled requirements.

Earlier this month, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced the first sea-pay increase for sailors and Marines in more than a decade. The pay hike of up to 25 percent is expected to take effect this summer.

Cuts: Welsh says no religious persecution in AF

FROM FRONT PAGE

James and Welsh told members of the House Armed Services Committee that the following additional platform reductions would be necessary if further budget cuts imposed by sequestration are allowed to go into effect in fiscal 2016:

- The retirement of as many as 89 more aircraft beyond the nearly 500 scheduled for the chopping block.

- The elimination of the KC-10 tanker fleet.

- Deferred upgrades to the Global Hawk and retirement of the Global Hawk Block 40.

- Slowed purchases of the F-35 multirole fighter.

- A 20 percent reduction in the number of combat air patrols by Predator and Reaper drones.

- Efforts to invest in the combat rescue helicopter force, the next-generation JSTARs aircraft and a replacement for the aging T-38 trainer aircraft would also have to be reconsidered.

James warned that a failure to change the law and avoid sequestration, which would force the Pentagon to accept \$115 billion less than it has requested over the next five years, would inhibit the military's ability to fight high-tech adversaries such as China and could lead to losses

of aircraft and crewmembers in future battles against advanced enemies.

The Air Force leaders came under fire from Republican lawmakers over a recent incident at the Air Force Academy in which a cadet was told to remove a Bible verse from a hallway whiteboard outside his room.

"I have been crucified with Christ therefore I no longer live, but Christ lives in me," the verse reportedly read.

The verse was taken down after Military Religious Freedom Foundation director Mike Weinstein complained about it after being contacted by 33 people at the academy — including cadets, faculty and staff — according to a press release by MRFF.

Weinstein contends that the Air Force Academy is hostile to people who aren't fundamentalist Christian.

Several members of the committee argued that the removal of the verse constituted a violation of the cadet's religious freedom, and suggested that the Air Force was ignoring the Constitution.

"We're worried that this idea in the law that [imposes some religious restrictions aimed at maintaining] good order and discipline is now becoming an excuse for political correctness. And I think

that very quickly tramples the First Amendment rights of certain of our airmen," Rep. John Fleming, R-La., said. "We're seeing this in the Air Force far more than other services."

"It's a balancing act. It's balancing that free expression of religion with the needs of the military and not giving the appearance or an actuality of forcing anything [on airmen]," James said.

Welsh pushed back strongly against the accusations that were being leveled.

"I know all kinds of people at the Air Force Academy ... who would disagree with your assessment of there being a problem with religious persecution at the Air Force Academy. ... You have to get the facts right on every one of these cases and try and stay unemotional until you know what happened," he said.

The single biggest frustration I've had in this job is the perception that somehow there is religious persecution inside the United States Air Force. It is not true. We have incidents like everybody has incidents. We investigate every one of them. We've asked every chaplain in our Air Force if they know of these cases, [and they say] no."

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By Pamela Wood

The Baltimore Sun

A Naval Academy midshipman charged with sexually assaulting a classmate chose a trial by judge instead of a jury as his court-martial began at the Washington Navy Yard Friday morning.

Midshipman Joshua Tate had a "change of heart," said his civilian attorney, Jason Ehrenberg.

"Sir, he would like to go judge alone," Ehrenberg told the judge, Marine Corps Col. Daniel Daugherty.

Daugherty asked Tate a series of questions to ensure he understood his decision. Then Daugherty dismissed the potential jurors, who did not appear in court.

Tate is charged with aggravated sexual assault and making false official statements.

The jury — called a "panel" in the military justice system — was to comprise Navy and Marine Corps officers who are stationed in the Washington region.

Daugherty had ordered that the pool of potential panel members be drawn from outside of the

academy, as would normally be the case because of the intense focus on the case and the issue of sexual assault in the military.

Government prosecutors allege that Tate had sexual contact with a female classmate who was so drunk she was unable to consent. They also allege that he changed the story he gave to Navy investigators.

The charges stem from an off-campus party in April 2012. Three midshipman, all members of the football team at the time, initially were accused of sexually assaulting the woman.

Formal charges were not filed against one midshipman, who has graduated and is now an ensign in the Navy.

Charges were dropped against another midshipman after the case was weakened when the judge threw out key statements. He is in the process of withdrawing from the academy and is a witness in the case against Tate.

The alleged victim remains enrolled at the academy and is expected to testify.

The court-martial is expected to last several days.

MILITARY

Panel: Lift transgender troops ban

BY LISA LEFF

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States should join the dozen other nations that allow transgender people to serve in the armed forces, a commission led by a former U.S. surgeon general said in a report released Thursday that concludes there is no medical reason for the decades-old ban and calls on President Barack Obama to lift it.

The five-member panel, convened by a think tank at San Francisco State University, said Department of Defense regulations designed to keep transgender people out of the military are based on outdated beliefs that require thousands of current servicemembers to leave the

service or to forego the medical procedures and other changes that could align their bodies and gender identities.

"We determined not only that there is no compelling medical reason for the ban but also that the ban itself is an expensive, damaging and unfair barrier to health care access for the approximately 15,450 transgender personnel who serve currently in the active, Guard and Reserve components," said the commission led by Dr. Joycelyn Elders, who served as surgeon general during Bill Clinton's first term as president, and Rear Adm. Alan Steinman, a former chief health and safety director for the Coast Guard.

The White House on Thursday referred questions to the Department of Defense.

"At this time, there are no plans to change the department's policy and regulations which do not allow transgender individuals to serve in the U.S. military," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a DOD spokesman.

The report says that while scholars have yet to find government documents explaining the basis for the ban, which has existed in medical fitness standards and conduct codes since the 1960s, it appears rooted in part in the psychiatric establishment's long-held consensus, since revised, that people who identify with a gender different from the one assigned at birth suffer from a mental disorder.

The ban also was apparently based on the assumption that sex reassignment surgeries would be

too difficult, disruptive and expensive. But the commission rejected those notions as inconsistent with modern medical practice and the scope of health care services routinely provided to nontransgender military personnel.

"When I transitioned, I wasn't just a good officer; I became a better officer because I didn't have to deal with that conflict anymore," said Army Reserve Capt. Sage Fox, 41, who started taking female hormones and living as a woman after a deployment to Kuwait as a man.

The panel's work was commissioned by the Palm Center, a think tank based at San Francisco State that is funded in part by a \$1.3 million grant from Jennifer Pritzker, a Chicago billionaire and former Army lieutenant colonel who came out as transgender last year.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Army Reserve Capt. Sage Fox started taking female hormones and living as a woman after a deployment to Kuwait as a man.



VLADIMIR VORONIN/AP

A Kyrgyz policeman investigates U.S. Air Force KC-135 tanker aircraft wreckage west of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, last May. Investigators said Thursday the crew died when the tanker did a "Dutch roll."

Report details tanker crash over Kyrgyzstan

From wire reports

A KC-135R tanker flown by a Fairchild Air Force Base crew shook apart over Kyrgyzstan last May, an investigation shows. The tail section came off and the rest of the plane plummeted through the air until it exploded then crashed, killing the three on board.

Shortly after the tanker took off from Manas Air Base, the crew reported the plane was "waffling" and later that it was "bent."

The tanker was experiencing what pilots call "Dutch roll." The nose was moving left and right while the wings were alternating up and down. Unless it's brought under control, the phenomenon can exert too much stress on the structure of a plane.

About 11 minutes after takeoff, the plane exploded in flight and crashed. Killed were Capt. Mark Tyler Voss, 27, the pilot; Capt. Victoria Pincinckey, 27, the co-pilot; and Tech. Sgt. Herman "Trey" Mackey III, 30, the boom operator.

The Air Force released its findings on the May 3, 2013, accident Thursday morning in a briefing from Brig. Gen. Steven Arquette,

who led an investigation into the crash of the tanker that went by the call sign Shell 77.

The tanker, which had been in the Air Force inventory since it was delivered by Boeing in 1964, had been in Kyrgyzstan for less than 24 hours. Assigned to McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, a different crew had flown it to Manas the previous day and reported it had a "right rolling motion," but the plane had no major maintenance problems in the previous 14 flights.

Voss, Pincinckey and Mackey had been deployed from Fairchild to Kyrgyzstan about three weeks earlier and were the first crew to fly the plane after it arrived.

Shell 77 took off with reports of isolated thunderstorms. About two minutes into the flight, Pincinckey reported over the radio that the plane was "kind of waffling a lot." Later she said, "the jet's bent."

Data from the flight recorder shows the plane was going into a Dutch roll, with the movements getting more pronounced with each wag of the nose and dip of a wing.

The KC-135R has systems that are designed to help prevent or correct such rolls, but investigators who inspected pieces of the plane determined that at least one of them, a rudder lock lever, was significantly worn. It may not have operated properly and could have increased the problem of the roll.

Corrective action taken by the crew couldn't stop the roll and appears to have made it worse, based on data from the flight recorder. Eventually, the nose of the plane was swinging from 12 degrees right to 17 degrees left, with one wing lifting up then dropping as the other wing lifted. The stress caused the plane's tail section to fail and separate from the plane just ahead of the vertical stabilizer.

The tanker dove, nose down at 82 degrees, gaining speed. The stress forced the right wing off. Fuel from the wing tank spilled out and ignited. The plane exploded midair and crashed to the ground in pieces. Debris was scattered over an area more than 2 miles square in the foothills below the Himalaya Mountains.

Gen. Kelly: Without funding, anti-drug effort is faltering

BY ERNESTO LONDONO

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Dwindling defense budgets have been a boon to drug trafficking networks in Latin America as U.S. intelligence and interdiction assets in the Caribbean have been pared down, the top American commander responsible for the region said Thursday.

"Because of asset shortfalls, we're unable to get after 74 percent of suspected maritime drug smuggling," Marine Gen. John Kelly told the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing about threats and military posture in the Western Hemisphere. "I simply sit and watch it go by."

Kelly said that because of tightening defense budgets, he does not anticipate getting additional assets for intelligence gathering and surveillance, even as some currently in use in Afghanistan are shipped home. Meanwhile, he warned, China, Russia and Iran have made a concerted effort in recent years to bolster their presence and influence in Latin America.

Kelly, who heads the Miami-based Southern Command, has been making a strikingly candid argument that the United States

has become ill-equipped to respond to threats and capitalize on opportunities in the Americas. The general said that of the five overseas combatant commands, his has the "least priority."

The urgency of his remarks Thursday was rare for military leaders, who often use congressional hearings to highlight success stories and seldom volunteer statistics that show worsening trend lines.

"Without assets, certain things will happen," Kelly said later in the day, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon. "Much larger amounts of drugs will flow up from Latin America. We'll do less and less engagement with our friends and partners in the region."

In fiscal 2013, he said in written testimony submitted to the Senate panel that the United States and allied nations were able to interdict 132 metric tons of cocaine, 15 percent less than the year before.

Kelly said he estimates that authorities seize roughly 20 percent of narcotics in transit to the United States, a statistic several senators called alarming.

"That's all we get," Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., the ranking member of the committee, asked incredulously.

"All we get," Kelly responded.

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NATION

FBI balks at background checks for marijuana

By GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The FBI is refusing to run nationwide background checks on people applying to run legal marijuana businesses in Washington state, even though it has conducted similar checks in Colorado — a discrepancy that illustrates the quandary the Justice Department faces as it allows the states to experiment with regulating a drug that's long been illegal under federal law.

Washington state has been asking for nearly a year if the FBI would conduct background checks on its applicants, to no avail. The bureau's refusal raises the possibility that people with troublesome criminal histories could wind up with pot licenses in the state — undermining the department's long-practiced policy of ensuring that states keep a tight rein on the nascent industry.

It's a strange jam for the feds, who announced last summer that they wouldn't sue to prevent Washington and Colorado from regulating marijuana after 75 years of prohibition.

The Obama administration has said it wants the states to make sure pot revenue doesn't go to organized crime and that state marijuana industries don't become a cover for the trafficking of other illegal drugs. At the same time, it might be tough for the FBI to stomach conducting such background checks — essentially helping the states violate federal law.

The Justice Department declined to explain why it isn't conducting the checks in Washington when it has in Colorado. Stephen



A man wears an American flag as he walks past a vendor selling tie-dyed merchandise at the first day of Hempfest in Seattle in August.

‘Requiring, and ensuring, nationwide background checks on Washington state licensees is a no-brainer.’

Alison Holcomb

Seattle lawyer who drafted Washington's marijuana law

Fischer, a spokesman for the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division, referred an Associated Press inquiry to DOJ headquarters, which would only issue a written statement.

"To ensure a consistent national approach, the department has been reviewing its background check policies, and we hope to have guidance for states in the near term," it said in its entirety.

In Washington, three people so far have received licenses to grow marijuana — without going through a national background check, even though the state Liquor Control Board's rules require that they do so before a license is issued.

"The federal government has not stated why it has not yet agreed to conduct national background checks on our behalf," Washington state Liquor Control Board spokesman Brian Smith said in an email.

"However, the Liquor Control Board is ready to deliver fingerprints as soon as DOJ is ready."

In the meantime, officials are relying on background checks by the Washington State Patrol to catch any in-state arrests or convictions. Applicants must have lived in Washington state for three months before applying, and many are longtime Washington residents whose criminal history would likely turn up on a State Patrol check. But others specifically moved to the state in hopes of joining the new industry.

"Both Washington state and Washington, D.C., have been unequivocal that they want organized crime out of the marijuana business," said Alison Holcomb, the Seattle lawyer who authored the legal pot law. "Requiring, and ensuring, nationwide background checks on Washington state licensees is a no-brainer."

Deal reached on jobless benefits

Senate strikes \$9.7B bipartisan compromise

By ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chalk up one partisan election-year battle that senators seem likely to resolve when they return from recess later this month — the fight over renewing expired benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Bipartisan Senate negotiators said Thursday that they'd struck a \$9.7 billion compromise over the issue, agreeing to a five-month extension paid for by boosting some federal revenues. Approval seemed likely by the Democratic-led Senate when it returns in late March from a weeklong recess. That would throw the issue into the Republican-run House, where its fate is uncertain.

The revived benefits would be retroactive to Dec. 28, when the program expired, ultimately halting emergency coverage to more than 2 million people who've been without jobs the longest.

That holiday season cessation of payments had ignited partisan warfare over an issue that fit neatly into the parties' campaign-season competition over which was best creating jobs and helping families still struggling to right themselves after the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Democrats said opposition by most Republicans underscored GOP indifference to financially stressed families, while Republicans said they wanted an extension to be paid for and to improve federal job programs.

Lawmakers still face seemingly

intractable gridlock over other major issues, including proposals to revamp immigration laws and the income tax system.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a leading bargainer, said Thursday's agreement would help families and "provide a little certainty to families, business and the markets that Congress is capable of coming together to do the right thing."

Added another top negotiator, Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., "I'm so glad that both Democrats and Republicans have come together on a proposal that will finally give Americans certainty about their unemployment benefits."

Rhode Island had an unemployment rate in December of 9.3 percent and Nevada's was 9 percent — the two worst rates in the nation.

White House spokesman Jay Carney noted that President Barack Obama has called on Congress repeatedly to approve an extension and said, "This is not just the right thing to do for these Americans looking for work, it's the right thing to do for our economy."

Lawmakers said the proposal was fully paid for, with the bulk of the money raised by extending some customs fees through 2024 and delaying some companies' contributions to their pensions, in effect increasing their taxes now but reducing them later. More federal revenue would be raised by letting some companies make earlier payments to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., which guarantees workers' pensions.

Under pressure, president vows to act on deportations

By JOSH LEDERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With prospects for real immigration reform fading, President Barack Obama is yielding to pressure from some of his staunchest allies and looking for ways to act without Congress to ease the suffering caused by deportation.

An Oval Office meeting with three Latino lawmakers brought about a late-night announcement from the White House on Thursday: Obama is directing his homeland security chief, Jeh Johnson, to review America's deportation program, with an eye toward finding more humane ways to enforce the law without contravening it.

It was unexpected, coming from a president who said as recently as last week that when it came to deportations, he's already stretched his presidential powers to the max.

"It is clear that the pleas from the community got through to the president," said Rep. Luis Guterrez, D-Ill., adding that the White House had been "dormant for too long."

What is not clear is how far Obama will go — or what options are even available to mitigate the pain without consent from Congress.

White House officials declined to answer questions Thursday about what the government could do to make deportation more humane or whether there's a timeline for Homeland Security to finish an inventory and report back to Obama. But immigration activists will likely renew their call for Obama to halt deportations of parents of children brought to the U.S. illegally, among other steps.

The conversation will start Friday, when Obama plans to meet with organizations working to pass bipartisan immigration legislation.



Oriel Siu, left, holds a sign opposing deportations, during a demonstration outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., on Tuesday

THOMAS SOERENES, THE (TACOMA, WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE/AP

NATION

Graco adds 403,000 child seats to recall

DETROIT — Graco Children's Products has added more than 403,000 child seats to last month's recall of 3.8 million to replace faulty harness buckles.

But the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration still wants Graco to add 1.8 million more seats to the recall because they have the same buckles.

The 403,222 seats added to the recall include 2006 through 2014 Argos 70 Elite, Ready Ride, Step 2, My Ride 65 with Safety Surround, My Size 70, Head Wise 70 with Safety Surround, Nautilus 3-in-1, Nautilus Plus, and Smart Seat with Safety Surround, according to NHTSA documents.

49,000 Chargers on recall to fix headlights

DETROIT — Chrysler is recalling more than 49,000 Dodge Charger muscle cars because a connector can overheat and knock out low-beam headlights.

The recall affects 2011 and 2012 Chargers equipped with halogen headlights. Dealers will inspect and replace for free the headlight wiring, bulbs and assemblies if necessary.

GM excluded Ion deaths from ignition inquiry

DETROIT — General Motors excluded the Saturn Ion from a Feb. 13 recall for faulty ignition switches after engineers inexplicably failed to look at fatal crashes involving the compact car.

The cars were recalled two weeks later, after another inquiry found four crashes involving 2004 Ions that killed four people, according to a GM chronology of the recall posted on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website Wednesday night.

According to the chronology, GM employees were told about most of the Ion crash deaths within two weeks of when they occurred. So GM knew about the deaths but still failed to consider them until this year.

The company said the ignition switches can "knag" from heavy, dangling keys. The switches can suddenly change from the "run" position to "accessory" or "off."

Police officer charged with false imprisonment

PHILADELPHIA — A Philadelphia police officer is facing charges after investigators said he roughed up and handcuffed an Iraq War veteran in an incident caught on cellphone video.

Kevin Corcoran, 33, is charged with false imprisonment, an official oppression stemming from the incident last March. Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said Corcoran is suspended with the intent to dismiss.

Prosecutors said Corcoran got out of his patrol car and drove his cruiser to the officer for allegedly making an illegal turn. Several people began recording with their cellphones, including Roderick King.

Investigators said Corcoran slapped the device out of King's hand and handcuffed him after the arrest before eventually releasing him.

From The Associated Press

By VERENA DOBNIK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Using sound devices to probe for voices and telescopic cameras to peer into small spaces, workers searching a pile of rubble from a gas explosion in New York City were clinging to the possibility Friday of finding survivors from a blast that brought down two apartment buildings and killed at least eight people.

"We have to think of survivors and work in that way, with hope," said Fire Department of New York Chief Edward Kilduff.

Police said Friday that at least one person remained unaccounted for after the deafening blast Wednesday morning destroyed two five-story East Harlem apartment buildings at Park Avenue and 16th Street that were built by an 1887 cast-iron gas main.

"We are still in a search and rescue mode," a fire department

spokesman said.

The work was slow going, with 40 percent to 50 percent of the debris removed by Thursday evening. Kilduff said the fire was still burning, and the force of the explosion collapsed and pancaked layers of floors. A back wall that is still freestanding posed a collapse hazard.

Workers continued to remove debris at the site on Friday, and hoped to make it down to the first floor by Saturday, then move on to the basement.

"This is catastrophic. It's devastating and we've had, obviously, a loss of life. So, it is very hard to be here. But it's part of our job to find out what happened so that we can keep it from happening again," said National Transportation Safety Board team member Robert Sumwalt, who was at the scene early Friday.

About a dozen firefighters pried through charred wood

and bits of metal in frigid conditions, seeking human remains or anything that could help the investigation. For the first time since the explosion, smoke finally stopped rising from the debris but the smell was still apparent a block away.

More than 60 people were injured. Investigators were trying to pinpoint the leak and determine whether it had anything to do with the city's aging gas and water mains, some from the 1800s.

Fire and utility officials said that if the buildings were plagued in recent days or weeks by strong gas odors, as some tenants contended, they have no evidence anyone reported it before Wednesday.

The gas main and distribution pipe under the street had been examined in a crater and were found to be intact, with no obvious punctures or ruptures, Sum-

walt said Thursday. They had not been torn from the ground.

However, he said NTSB investigators had been unable to conduct a fuller examination because of the rescue effort underway, and it was unclear whether the leak came from inside or outside the buildings.

Police identified six of the dead: Griselda Camacho, 45, a Hunter College security officer; Carmen Tanco, 67, a dental hygienist who took part in church-sponsored medical missions to Africa and the Caribbean; Andreas Panagopoulos, 43, a musician; Rosaura Hernandez, 22, a restaurant cook from Mexico; George Ameado, 44, a handyman who lived in one of the buildings that collapsed; and Alexis Salas, 22, a restaurant worker.

Mexican officials said a Mexican woman, Rosaura Barrios Vazquez, 43, was among those killed.

Pilot lands safely after takeoff aborted

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Some passengers aboard a plane whose nose gear collapsed on a Philadelphia runway finally made it South Florida early Friday.

Officials say US Airways Flight 1702 was heading for Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport shortly after 6 p.m. Thursday when a tire on the front landing gear blew out, forcing the pilot to abort takeoff at Philadelphia International Airport.

The Airbus A320 jet was carrying 149 passengers and five crewmembers.

Some of those passengers boarded a new flight that landed in Florida early Friday.

"We started skidding down the runway, people were screaming and crying. It was quite harrowing," Dennis Fee told WTVT-TV.

Another passenger said the emergency was over quickly.

"All the sudden we slammed back into the runway and bounced, and we go up a little more and we slam again. It happened very quickly, so we didn't know exactly what was going on,"



MATT SLOCUM/AP

A damaged US Airways jet lies at the end of a runway at Philadelphia International Airport on Thursday. Airline officials said the flight was heading to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., when the pilot was forced to abort takeoff around 6:30 p.m., after a tire on the front landing gear blew out.

Larry Grant said.

"Almost instantaneously people from the back were screaming 'fire, fire,' and so passengers did what they were supposed to do and they pulled the emergency doors over the window, and we

started to proceed and the ramps inflated, and we got everybody out. We slid down the ramps, very fast."

An airport spokeswoman in Philadelphia said two passengers requested medical atten-

tion, but no serious injuries were reported.

The crippled plane was removed from the runway in Philadelphia. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

NJ student, 18, who sued parents returns home

The Associated Press

ROSELAND, N.J. — The teenage student who sued to get her parents to support her after she moved out of their home has family on her side, and the lawsuit is now asking for money.

Rachel Canning's return does not involve any financial or other considerations, the lawyer for the 18-year-old's parents said Wednesday. Angelo Sarno said that the dispute had been settled "amicably," but refused to comment further on the litigation.

Sarno said Canning moved

back in with her parents on Tuesday night and said the notoriety surrounding the suit had damaged the family.

"This is a matter that should have been brought in some counselor's office, not into a courtroom," Sarno said. "There's a long road ahead, this is not something that's going to happen overnight. The point of this process? The healing needs to begin."

A judge last week had denied the teen's request for child support and to have her parents pay her remaining high school tuition. But the judge scheduled an

April court date to consider the overarching question of whether the Canning are obligated to financially support their adult daughter.

State Superior Court Judge Peter Bogaard sounded skeptical of some of the claims in the lawsuit, saying it could lead to teens "thumbing their noses" at their parents, leaving home and then asking for financial support.

"Are we going to open the gates for 12-year-olds to sue for an Xbox? For 13-year-olds to sue for an iPhone?" he asked. "We should be mindful of a potentially slip-

pery slope."

Canning had left her parents' house on Oct. 30, two days before she turned 18 after a tumultuous stretch during which her parents separated and reconciled and the teen began getting into uncharacteristic trouble at school.

In court filings, Canning's parents, retired Lincoln Park police Chief Sean Canning and his wife, Elizabeth, said their daughter voluntarily left home because she didn't want to abide by reasonable household rules.

WORLD

Was there 'human intervention' with jet?

Investigators pursue multiple angles, expand search for MH370

By EILEEN NG
AND JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Investigators are increasingly certain the missing Malaysian Airlines jet turned back across the country after its last radio contact with air traffic controllers, and that someone with aviation skills was responsible for the change in course, a Malaysian government official said Friday. A U.S. official said in Washington that investigators are examining the possibility of "human intervention" in the plane's disappearance, adding it may have been "an act of piracy."

The official, who wasn't authorized to talk to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said it also was possible the plane may have landed somewhere.

While other theories are still being examined, the official said key evidence for the human intervention is that contact with the Boeing 777's transponder stopped about a dozen minutes before a messaging system on the jet quit.

The Malaysian official, who also declined to be identified because he is not authorized to brief the media, said only a skilled person could navigate the plane the way it was flown after its last confirmed location over the South China Sea.

Earlier Friday, acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the country had yet to determine what happened to the plane after it dropped off civilian radar and ceased communicating with the ground around 40 minutes into the flight to Beijing on March 8.

He said investigators were still trying to establish with certainty that military radar records of a blip moving west across the Malay Peninsula into the Strait of Malacca showed Flight MH370.

"I will be the most happiest person if we can actually confirm that it is the MH370, then we can move all (search) assets from the South China Sea to the Strait of Malacca," he told reporters.

Until then, he said, the international search effort would continue expanding east and west from the plane's last confirmed location.

The Malaysian official said it had now been established with a "more than 50 percent" degree of certainty that military radar had picked up the missing plane. On Thursday, a U.S. official said the plane remained airborne after losing contact with air traf-



Malaysia's Minister of Transport Hishammuddin Hussein, center, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, director general of the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation, left, and Malaysia Airlines Group CEO Ahmad Jaafari Yahya, right, take questions from the media Friday in Sepang, Malaysia.

fic control, sending a signal to establish contact with a satellite.

The Malaysian official confirmed this, referring to the process by its technical term of a "handshake."

Boeing offers a satellite service that can receive a stream of data on how an aircraft is functioning in flight and relay the information to the plane's home base.

Malaysia Airlines didn't subscribe to that service, but the plane still had the capability to connect with the satellite and was automatically sending signals, or pings, said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the situation by name.

Hishammuddin said the government would only release information about the signals when they were verified.

"I hope within a couple of days to have something conclusive," he told a news conference.

Malaysia has faced accusations it isn't sharing all its information or suspicions about the plane's final movements. It insists it is being open, and says it would be irresponsible to narrow the focus of the search until there is undeniable evidence of the plane's flight path.

No theory has been ruled out in one of modern aviation's most puzzling mysteries.

But it now appears increasingly certain the plane didn't experience a catastrophic incident over the South China Sea as was initially seen as the most likely scenario.

Some experts believe it is possible that one of the pilots, or someone with flying experience, hijacked the plane for some later purpose or committed suicide



University students hold a candlelight vigil Friday for passengers on the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in Yangzhou, in eastern China's Jiangsu province.

by plunging the aircraft into the sea.

Mike Glynn, a committee member of the Australian and International Pilots Association, said he considers pilot suicide to be the most likely explanation for the disappearance, as was suspected in a SilkAir crash during a flight from Singapore to Jakarta in 1997 and an EgyptAir flight in 1999.

"A pilot rather than a hijacker is more likely to be able to switch off the communications equipment," Glynn said. "The last thing that I, as a pilot, want is suspicion to fall on the crew, but it's happened twice before."

Glynn said a pilot may have sought to fly the plane into the Indian Ocean to reduce the chances of recovering data recorders, and to conceal the cause of the disaster.

Scores of aircraft and ships from 12 countries are involved in the search, which reaches into the eastern stretches of the South China Sea and on the western side of the Malay Peninsula, northwest into the Andaman Sea and the India Ocean.

India said it was using heat sensors on flights over hundreds of uninhabited Andaman Sea islands Friday and would expand the search for the missing jet farther west into the Bay of Bengal, more than 1,000 miles to the west of the plane's last known position.

Spokesman Col. Harmit Singh of India's Tri-Services Command said it began land searches after sweeping seas to the north, east and south of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

A team of five U.S. officials with air traffic control and radar expertise — three from

Types of plane signals

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

— The missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200 sent signals to a satellite for four hours after the aircraft went missing, an indication that it was still flying for hundreds of miles or more, according to a U.S. official briefed on the search for the jet. This raises the possibility that the plane may have flown far from the current search areas.

A look at three types of signals planes give off, and how they relate to the missing jetliner:

TRANSPONDERS

Transponders, an abbreviation of transmitter-responder, are electronic devices that transmit information on the plane's identity when they receive a signal from air traffic control radar. All commercial aircraft use them. Transponders can be turned off by pilots.

The missing jet's transponder last communicated with Malaysian civilian radar about an hour after takeoff, when the plane was above the Gulf of Thailand between Malaysia and southern Vietnam.

ACARS

ACARS — or Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System — is a data link system used to transmit short messages such as weather updates and status reports between aircraft and ground stations via radio or satellite.

According to the U.S. official, ACARS messages sent by the missing plane continued after its transponder went silent, although he wasn't certain for how long.

OPERATING DATA SENT VIA SATELLITE

Boeing Co. offers a satellite service that can receive data during a flight on how the aircraft is functioning and relay the information to the plane's home base. The idea is to provide information before the plane lands on whether maintenance work or repairs are needed. Even if an airline does not subscribe to the service, planes still periodically send automated signals — or pings — to the satellite seeking to establish contact. Malaysia Airlines did not subscribe to the satellite service. The U.S. official said automated pings were received from the jetliner for four hours after it went missing, indicating it probably flew for hundreds of miles beyond its last confirmed sighting on radar.

— The Associated Press

the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and two from the Federal Aviation Administration has been in Kuala Lumpur since Monday to assist with the investigation.

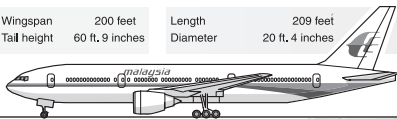
WORLD

New twist in the hunt for missing plane

Administration officials say they have information that the plane's engines remained running for approximately four hours after it disappeared from radar. The officials also acknowledged that they did not know what direction the plane flew — or whether it simply circled — over that time or whether it was airborne at all. But four hours of additional flight could have put the plane somewhere over the Indian Ocean, prompting U.S. officials to consider whether the search area should be expanded.

The 777-200

Wingspan	200 feet	Length	209 feet	Maximum capacity	440 people	Fuel capacity	31,000 gallons
Tail height	60 ft. 9 inches	Diameter	20 ft. 4 inches	Range fully fueled	5,240 miles	Max. takeoff weight	545,000 pounds

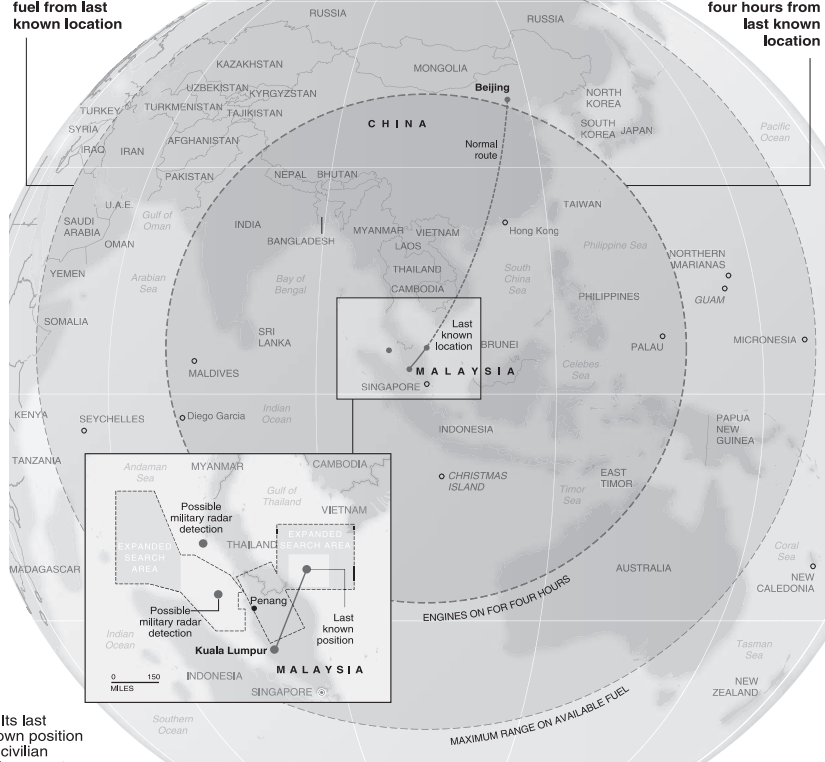


Maximum range of MH370 on available fuel from last known location

Maximum range of MH370 in four hours from last known location

How far the flight could have gone

At the time of its disappearance, the plane was carrying more than seven hours worth of fuel, according to an airline official. At its last tracked position, it was traveling at 539 mph. At that speed, including gliding to Earth, it could have flown just over 4,000 miles. If the plane flew on for at least four hours, it could have covered 2,400 miles, including glide.

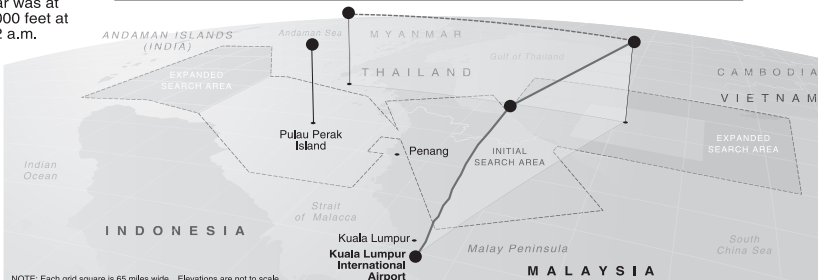


Truth

- The Boeing 777-200 airliner took off from Kuala Lumpur Saturday at 12:41 a.m.
- It reached its cruising altitude of 35,000 feet at 1:01 a.m.
- Its last known position on civilian radar was at 35,000 feet at 1:22 a.m.

Rumors

- On Wednesday, Malaysian officials suggested the plane may have been detected inside Thai airspace 200 miles northwest of Penang by military radar at around 30,000 feet at 2:15 a.m.
- Malaysia's air force chief, Gen. Rodzali Daud, said Tuesday that the jet was detected by military radar at 2:40 a.m. Saturday near Pulau Perak. A day later, Daud said that reports that it had been detected there were incorrect.



SOURCES: Flightaware.com, the Aviation Herald and news reports

LARRY KARKLES AND RICHARD JOHNSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

UKRAINE UNREST



Pro-Ukraine protesters, some of them injured, are shielded by police during clashes with pro-Russian protesters following a rally in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Thursday.

SEGER GERTS/AP

No common vision on Ukraine

Lavrov says differences remain after US talks aimed at ending crisis

BY LARA JAKES
AND CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
The Associated Press

LONDON — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Friday that differences remain between Moscow and the U.S. following negotiations in London aimed at ending the crisis in Ukraine, whose strategic Crimea region is voting this weekend on whether to secede.

After several hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Lavrov confirmed there was “no common vision” between the two nations — although he described the dialogue as “useful.”

Sunday’s vote on Crimea — Ukraine’s strategic Black Sea peninsula of 2 million people — is widely expected to back secession and, potentially, annexation with Russia. The new government in Kiev believes the vote is illegal, but Moscow says it does not recognize the new government as legitimate.

The U.S. and EU say the Crimean vote violates Ukraine’s sovereignty and international law. If Crimea votes to secede, the U.S. and European Union plan to slap sanctions as early as Monday on Russian officials and businesses accused of escalating the crisis

and undermining Ukraine’s new government.

Lavrov on Friday reaffirmed that Russia will “respect the results of the referendum” in Crimea and said sanctions would harm relations.

“Our partners also realize that sanctions are counterproductive,” he said.

European and U.S. leaders have repeatedly urged Moscow to pull back its troops in Crimea and stop encouraging local militias there who are hipping the vote as a choice between re-establishing generations of ties with Russia or returning to echoes of fascism from Ukraine’s World War II era, when some residents cooperated with Nazi occupiers.

The divide between Russia and the West has been cast as a struggle for the future of Ukraine, a country with a size and population similar to France. Much of western Ukraine favors ties with the 28-nation European Union, while many in eastern Ukraine have closer economic and traditional ties to Russia. Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, has worked for months to press Ukraine back into Russia’s political and economic orbit.

While the Russian Foreign Ministry engaged in more sabre-rattling Friday by warning that it reserves the right to intervene in eastern Ukraine in defense of ethnic Russians who it claims are under threat, Lavrov denied any plans to send troops into eastern Ukraine.

“Russia doesn’t and can’t have any plans to invade southeastern regions of Ukraine,” he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said clashes overnight Thursday in the eastern city of Donetsk showed that Ukrainian authorities had lost control of the country and could not provide basic security. The clashes broke out, however, when a hostile pro-Russian crowd confronted pro-government supporters. At least one person died and 29 were injured.

Ukraine responded by calling the Russian statement “impressive in its cynicism.”

“[The Donetsk clashes had] a direct connection to deliberate, destructive actions of certain citizens of Russia and some Russian social organizations, representatives of which are present in our country to destabilize the situation and escalate tensions,” Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Evgeny Perebynis said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Russian troops gather at border for drills

The Washington Post

MOSCOW — Russia is gathering thousands of troops, as well as artillery and other equipment, at its border with Ukraine as part of military training exercises that also serve as a blunt reminder of Russia’s ability to easily move deeper into the neighboring country.

The Russian Defense Ministry reported on its website Thursday that 1,500 paratroopers would be dropped along with their equipment into the Rostov region near the border with Ukraine for exercises over the next two weeks.

In the past few days, Russian armored vehicles have been spotted in Belgorod, farther to the north.

The Defense Ministry said the exercises include 8,500 artillery troops, along with an assortment of rocket launchers, howitzers, antitank guns and other weapons.

“The main goal of the ongoing events is to comprehensively assess the units’ teamwork and subsequently tackle combat training tasks on an unfamiliar terrain and untested training ranges,” the ministry said in a statement.

Russia offered the description of its military movements a day after Ukrainian officials complained of a military buildup along their country’s borders.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official said the United States is closely watching the hastily called Russian military exercises and

considers them a potential threat.

“It’s the second time in a week” that Russian troops maneuvered near the border under the guise of exercises, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

Although the exercises are not confined to the Ukraine border region — they will also be conducted in central Russia — the signal is a strong one.

“In general terms, this is what a military does if it wants to keep at readiness,” said Mark Galeotti, a New York University professor who studies Russian security. “But in circumstances like this, they’re very aware of the political implications of any movements.”

Odierno sees repaired relationship with Russia

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Even with Russian troops massing along the Ukrainian border and tensions mounting in Crimea over an upcoming secession vote, the Army’s chief of staff says the U.S. hopes to rebuild its relationship with Moscow eventually.

“We might have to wait a little bit because of what’s going on in the Ukraine,” Gen. Ray Odierno told a forum Thursday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. “Hopefully, in the future we’ll be able to continue our relationship with Russia, even though right now we are not.”

He spoke for nearly an hour about the future of the Army in the wake of expected large-scale troop reductions and budget cuts. He warned that reducing troop levels significantly will hinder the U.S. ability to respond to future wars and could reduce the U.S. to resort to “national mobilization” beyond the National Guard and Reserve forces.

Last month, Odierno visited Japan and South Korea and held “very substantive” meetings with top army officials in China who are pushing for increased dialogue between the two militaries. He said the U.S. wants to increase the number of military exercises with Beijing and noted that the two militaries recently finished a joint humanitarian drill in Hawaii and are planning for a similar exercise.

“This is by far the biggest step that we’ve taken in many, many years in trying to open up this relationship between our armies,” he said. The burgeoning military-to-military relationship with Beijing would not replace U.S. ties with Russia, he added. “I think it’s dangerous to say we’re going to pick sides and say ‘OK, now we’re going to do more exercises with China and we’re going to ignore Russia,’” he said. “My 38 years’ of experience tell me we want to

keep all doors open and we want to try to continue to develop relationships across the board.”

Asked what possible conflict would pose the most danger for deploying troops, Odierno cited a war on the Korean peninsula, saying it would be “incredibly difficult” and “incredibly dangerous.”

“For me, it’s about stability on the Korean peninsula, and the concerns we have now is miscalculation,” he said. “We don’t want miscalculation, so it’s important for us to provide the support necessary so

‘We might have to wait a bit because of what’s going on in the Ukraine.’

Gen. Ray Odierno
Army chief of staff

we don’t have miscalculation, which could lead to unwanted provocations on the peninsula.”

He said budget constraints and force

reductions would not affect America’s military commitment to South Korea, though “how we do it might be different,” particularly after the transfer of wartime operational control to Seoul.

If a war broke out on the peninsula today, the top U.S. commander would lead the joint forces. That authority is scheduled to transfer to South Korea in December 2015, though Seoul has requested a delay because of security concerns over North Korea. A decision is expected this year.

He said the recent deployment of a Texas-based cavalry battalion to South Korea is an example of what the U.S. force presence there might eventually look like.

It might go to a rotational presence in Korea, but in any mind that actually increases readiness and capability on the peninsula,” he said, adding that “it won’t change the nature of the relationship.”

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Carrier staying in Mediterranean

BY CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush will remain in the Mediterranean Sea for several days longer than planned as part of a U.S. effort to reassure allies on edge over Russian aggression into Ukraine’s Crimean region.

The Bush arrived March 9 in Antalya, Turkey, for a preplanned stop on a mission to the Middle East. One ship in its carrier strike group, the USS Truxtun, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, is in the Black Sea conducting exercises with regional allies.

The Bush will remain “for a few more days over what the original plan was,” said Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren. The Pentagon is not divulging when the Bush will continue on with its original mission, but said the de-

parture would likely happen within the next several days.

The Bush’s extended stopover is part of an overall U.S. effort that includes increased U.S. support of a NATO air policing mission in the Baltic region and an increased presence in Poland, he said.

Six F-16s that were ordered to Poland in the wake of Russia’s move in Ukraine arrived there Thursday, and six more were to arrive Friday, Warren said. Also, a C-130 and a C-17 were scheduled to arrive with supplies and 150 more personnel on Friday.

The Bush Carrier Strike Group and its 6,000 sailors departed Norfolk, Va., last month on what is only the carrier’s second deployment. Four ships and eight aircraft squadrons are accompanying the Bush to the U.S. 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility, according to a Navy release.

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WORLD

Iraqi bill to legalize child marriage criticized

SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A contentious draft law being considered in Iraq could open the door to girls as young as 9 getting married and would require wives to submit to sex on their husband's whim, provoking outrage from rights activists and many Iraqis who see it as a step backward for women's rights.

The measure, aimed at creating different laws for Iraq's majority Shiite population, could further fray the country's divisions amid some of the worst bloodshed since the sectarian fighting that nearly ripped the country apart after the U.S.-led invasion. It also comes as more and more children under 18 get married in the country.

"That law represents a crime against humanity and childhood," prominent Iraqi human rights activist Hana Adwar told The Associated Press. "Married underage girls are subjected to physical and psychological suffering."

Iraqi law now sets the legal age for marriage at 18 without parental approval. Girls as young as 15 can be married only with a guardian's approval.

The proposed new measure,



'That law represents a crime against humanity and childhood.'

Hana Adwar
Iraqi human rights activist

known as the Jaafari Personal Status Law, is based on the principles of a Shiite school of religious law founded by Jaafar al-Sadiq, the sixth Shiite imam. Iraq's Justice Ministry late last year introduced the draft measure to the Cabinet, which approved it last month despite strong opposition by rights groups and activists.

The draft law does not set a minimum age for marriage. Instead, it mentions an age in a section on divorce, setting rules for divorces of girls who have reached the age of 9 years in the lunar Islamic calendar.

It also says that's the age girls reach puberty. Since the Islamic calendar year is 10 or 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar, that would be the equivalent of 8 years and 8 months old. The bill makes the father the only par-

ent with the right to accept or refuse the marriage proposal.

Critics of the bill believe that its authors slipped the age into the divorce section as a backhanded way to allow marriages of girls that young. Already, government statistics show that nearly 25 percent of marriages in Iraq involved someone under the age of 18 in 2011, up from 21 percent in 2001 and 15 percent in 1997. Planning Ministry spokesman Abdul-Zahra Hendawi said the practice of underage marriage is particularly prevalent in rural areas and some provinces where illiteracy is high.

Also under the proposed measure, a husband can have sex with his wife regardless of her consent. The bill also prevents women from leaving the house without their husband's permission, would restrict women's rights in matters



KARIM KADIM/AP

A schoolgirl passes by a banner in Baghdad that reads, "The Jaafari Personal Status Law is for you and all of us."

of parental custody after divorce and make it easier for men to take multiple wives.

Parliament must still ratify the bill before it becomes law. That is unlikely to happen before parliamentary elections scheduled for April 30, though the Cabinet support suggests it remains a priority for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's administration. Al-Maliki is widely expected to seek a third term.

Qais Raheem, a Shiite government employee living in eastern Baghdad, said the draft bill contradicts the principles of a modern society.

"The government officials have come up with this backward law instead of combating corruption and terrorism," said Raheem who has four children, including two teenage girls. "This law legalizes the rape, and we should all reject it."

British soldiers lost during WWI reburied

By GREG KELLER
The Associated Press

LOOS-EN-GOHELLE, France — Scotsman William McAleer had been in France barely two months when, just before sunrise on Sept. 25, 1915, he was among thousands of other troops who launched the British army's largest attack so far of World War I.

By the next day, the 22-year-old private from a seaside town in Fife was dead. Almost 60,000 British troops died in the Battle of Loos, and a third of them disappeared with no known grave.

McAleer was one of the unknowns until nearly a century later, when workers building a new prison turned up his remains in a common grave.

On Friday, McAleer and 19 other still unidentified British soldiers were reburied with full military honors in a ceremony in this sleepy northern French village, close to where they fell in battle. The ceremony was a reminder of the horrors of a war that devastated this continent 100 years ago — and as a reminder of why many Europeans today are so wary of seeing a new conflict on their eastern flank in Ukraine.

A bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" as McAleer's coffin was carried through the fog-shrouded cemetery Friday morning by six Royal Regiment of Scotland soldiers wearing kilts. A relative of McAleer's, Stephen McLeod, represented McAleer's family at the funeral.

"He was my great uncle. My gran gave me his Mass card when I joined the army," said McLeod, 47, of Cowdenbeath, Fife, Scotland.

In the centenary year (of the start of the war), to be able to remember those who've fallen, and for it to be your kith and kin, how



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

A soldier of the Scottish Division Honor Guard, left, hands over the personal effects of British World War I soldier William McAleer to his grand-nephew, Stephen McLeod, center, during a reburial service at the Loos British Cemetery in Loos-en-Gohelle, France, on Friday.

can you find the words?" McLeod said after the ceremony.

Around 200 people, some from as far away as Australia, turned out for the hour-long ceremony. Many were history buffs who'd heard about the ceremony on the website of the Western Front Association, a historical society.

"We've been doing this for 30 years," said Iris Oakey, an Englishwoman who attended with her brother, John Mawson. Their grandfather fought further north on the Western Front at Ypres in Belgium. Together, they've visited World War I sites in more than a dozen countries. "Every cemetery has a story — every single one," Oakey said.

The Battle of Loos was a failed attempt to break through the German line. It was memorialized in English poet Robert Graves' autobiography, "Good-bye to All That." Rudyard Kipling's son, John, also died here and is buried at another British cemetery

nearby. It was Kipling who proposed the phrase "Known Unto God" for unidentified casualties that is engraved on limestone tombstones across the Western Front.

First World War remains still turn up regularly during construction projects or in the spring planting season. More than 700,000 soldiers killed in the Great War were never found, their remains now part of the earth along the 360-mile-long route of the Western Front.

In January a nearly complete skeleton of an unidentified French soldier was unearthed at the Memorial of Verdun, where construction is underway on renovations to mark the centenary of the war.

Last May, remains of 26 French soldiers were found in Fleury-devant-Douaumont, one of France's "ghost villages" that were entirely destroyed by the war. And in 2012, another French soldier's remains turned up during construction of a canal that stretches 60 miles along the old Western Front.

Militants attack Nigeria village, kill more than 100

The Associated Press

KANO, Nigeria — Dozens of gunmen on motorbikes have killed more than 100 villagers in an ongoing conflict over land in northern Nigeria, survivors said Thursday.

The attacks, which began Tuesday night, left scores of people fleeing on foot from the four targeted villages about 110 miles south of Katsina city.

People were still burying victims at Marabar Kindo village when the attackers returned Thursday afternoon and gunned down another seven villagers, resident Adamu Inuwa said. They also set fire to thatched-roofed huts, Inuwa said.

Kabiru Ismail, of Maigora village, said the first raid came late Tuesday and residents were continuing to recover the bodies of people who had fled into the bush with the gunmen in pursuit. Reached by telephone Thursday morning, Ismail said he had helped bury more than 40 people. By late afternoon, he said he had counted 103 bodies in three of the four villages.

Separately, suspected Islamic militants struck the northern city of Maiduguri Friday morning, attacking the main military barracks and causing panicked residents to flee.

Soldiers had a shootout with the insurgents near the main Gwila Military Barracks. It appeared the extremists' mission is to hit the military in their stronghold. The barracks are the headquarters of a 10-month-old security forces offensive to halt the Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria using draconian state-of-emergency powers.

Maiduguri is the birthplace of the Boko Haram terrorist network that is blamed for the deaths of thousands of Muslims and Christians in a 4-year-old uprising aimed at transforming Nigeria into an Islamic state under strict Shariah law.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen accused of poisoning teacher

FL SANTA ROSA BEACH — A Florida teenager is accused of trying to poison his teacher by putting hand sanitizer in her Diet Coke.

The 15-year-old was arrested Tuesday and was charged with poisoning his teacher's drink. The charge is a first-degree felony.

Walton County Superintendent of Schools Carlene Anderson told the paper that the teacher is fine, though she became physically ill and went to the hospital after drinking the tainted soda.

Anderson said South Walton High School officials told her the boy is a prankster who didn't intend for the teacher get sick.

In addition to his arrest, the teen has been suspended from school and faces an expulsion hearing.

Judge blocks father from delivery room

NJ TRENTON — A woman in New Jersey can block a baby's father from the delivery room.

A state judge, citing a woman's right to privacy, ruled that mothers can decide who will be with them when giving birth.

In an opinion released Monday, the judge cited privacy rights outlined in two federal abortion cases.

The case was argued over the telephone last year in Passaic County while Rebecca DeLucia went into labor and delivered a girl to estranged fiance, Steven Plotnick, wanted access to the baby at birth.

Plotnick's attorney, Laura Nun-nink, said it was important to her client to bond with the baby.

DeLucia's lawyer, Joanna Brick, said DeLucia allowed Plotnick to visit, and his lawyer said he saw the child.

Daughter in \$7M shoplifting case freed

IL CHICAGO — A judge says a daughter accused of participating in a \$7 million shoplifting spree with her parents can go free pending trial.

Tuesday's detention hearing for Julia Bogdanov, 34, came a day after U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Mason deemed her Yugoslavia-born parents' flight risks and ordered that they stay behind bars.

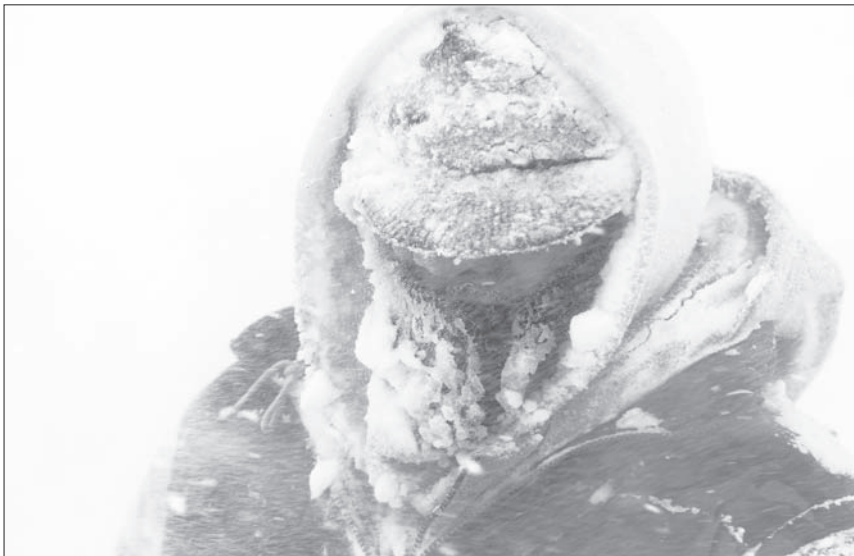
The three were arrested at their luxury home in suburban Chicago last week. They haven't entered pleas on charges they worked in tandem for years to pilfer merchandise nationwide.

Spring cleaning set for volunteers along roads

KY FRANKFORT — Volunteers will soon be out in force to pick up litter along Kentucky's highways.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has set next week as Adopt-A-Highway Spring Clean Week.

More than 700 volunteer groups participate in Kentucky's Adopt-



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Snow man

Daniel Davis is covered in snow and ice while clearing a sidewalk during a snowstorm Wednesday in Detroit. The storm was likely to put the Detroit area close to the record seasonal snow total of 93.6 inches set in 1880-1881, according to the National Weather Service.

a-Highway program, which was established in 1988.

Volunteers clean about 4,800 miles of roadside annually.

The Transportation Cabinet says it devotes about \$5 million and 200,000 worker hours each year to remove 96,000 bags of highway litter. It says Adopt-A-Highway volunteers help save taxpayer dollars and demonstrate that a clean environment is a shared responsibility.

Any business, association, community or public organization, or government entity can adopt a stretch of highway.

Participating groups include homemaker clubs, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, high school organizations, service clubs, veterans, college fraternities and sororities, sports teams and church groups.

Resort to pay \$500K fine in drug sting

NV LAS VEGAS — The Mandalay Bay Resort plans to pay a half-million-dollar fine amid accusations that employees at an upscale Las Vegas Strip lounge provided prostitutes and drugs to undercover officers.

A proposed settlement between the casino and the Nevada Gaming Control Board was filed this week. It's awaiting approval by the Nevada Gaming Commission.

Authorities say undercover officers bought cocaine from a host at the House of Blues Foundation Room in June 2012. Officials say employees also connected officers with four prostitutes, cocaine, and a private room for sex

THE CENSUS

52

The height of a rare redwood that could be chopped down to make way for commuter trains in Northern California. Preservationists are hoping to stoke public awareness to save the tree, an albino chimero coast redwood, which is so rare that there are believed to be fewer than 10 of its kind in the world. The tree in Cotati, Calif., is thought to be the largest of its kind on the planet. But Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit officials say the decision to remove it is out of their hands. Federal regulators have determined the tree must come down for safety reasons because it is too close to a proposed set of new tracks. To mitigate the tree's loss, the rail project is required to plant 20 coast redwoods elsewhere. They will also take "thousands of cuttings" from the tree to try to preserve it, a SMART official said.



AP

Prue Draper, left, and Louise Santero pose for a photo next to an albino chimero redwood tree near a railroad track in Cotati, Calif., on Tuesday.

during a visit in July, and helped an officer get Ecstasy in August.

Officials with Mandalay Bay parent company MGM Resorts say the employees involved in the activities have been fired and the lounge has increased its training procedures to prevent future misconduct.

Lawyer accused of stealing mom's identity

MO ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis County lawyer who went missing for more than

tober 2013, Witt lost an almost \$1 million legal malpractice case. His law license has been suspended by the Missouri Supreme Court.

Calif. area named a national monument

DC WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama used his executive authority Tuesday to designate his 10th national monument, a 1,665-acre nature preserve on the northern California coast.

The Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands — which includes jagged bluffs as well as tidal pools and sand dunes — provides habitat for several types of migratory waterfowl as well as the threatened Point Arena mountain beaver. The Garcia River, which runs through the area, is home to both coho and chinook salmon.

"Our country is blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. It's up to us to protect them, so our children's children can experience them, too," Obama said in a statement. "That's what today is about. By designating Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands a national monument, we'll also support the local economy."

The preserve will be added to the existing Coastal California National Monument, a collection of 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs and pinnacles along California's 1,100-mile coast that President Bill Clinton protected in 2000.

From wire reports

Before he went missing in Oc-

NATION

PAYING LESS FOR

Higher Education

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ON HORIZON IN CALIFORNIA

By KATY MURPHY
AND PAUL BURGARINO
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — California's community college students could soon stay put — and pay a lot less — to earn what they thought they would have to go elsewhere to get: a four-year bachelor's degree.

As the demand for college graduates grows, many states are turning to their two-year schools for help — and California might do the same, allowing community colleges to offer four-year degrees that aren't readily available at nearby public universities.

"Now is the time to look at what innovations might be good for the state, and what might actually save us money in the long run," said state Sen. Marty Block, D-San Diego, whose Senate Bill 850 would authorize the change.

The startup would be small scale — one program per campus for a select few college districts.

The argument goes like this: Two-year associate degrees are becoming insufficient for some fields, such as nursing and respiratory therapy, but bachelor's degree programs in those areas are scarce. Expanding community college programs



First-year student Xin Xie, left, listens to clinical instructor Evelyn Joyce in the dental hygiene program at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, Calif., on February 4. Under a proposed state senate bill by Marty Block (D-San Diego), two-year colleges would be able to offer four-year degree programs, but, only one program would be eligible per school.

GARY REYES,
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT

would help students complete a bachelor's degree quickly, without the hassle, the expense of transferring to another school and the dreaded delays.

Ruby Guzman waited three years to get into the Contra Costa College nursing program, and now — on the cusp of an associate degree — she is waiting again. She and classmates aspiring to transfer to a four-year program are on CSU East Bay's waiting list.

"It just feels like roadblock after roadblock," Guzman said.

Offering bachelor's degrees in nursing at community colleges would ease students' anxiety and position them for more promising careers, said Marshall

Alameida, Contra Costa College's director of nursing.

Community colleges in 21 states offer four-year degree programs.

"I'd just like to see California catch up with the rest of the nation," said Linda Thor, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, where programs are preparing for expansion. "Our students need this and deserve this, as do our employers."

Big questions remain about cost, tuition rates, faculty credentials and whether bachelor's degrees would divert community colleges from their mission as California's two-year steppingstone to four-year campuses or trade jobs. Both

critics and advocates worry the state won't adequately fund the programs.

"That's always the million-dollar question, like are you going to pay for it?" said Aaron Bienenberg, president of the college system's student senate.

Previous bills have gone nowhere in the Legislature, but the state budget outlook has improved, and momentum is building, said Barry Russell, president of Las Positas College in Livermore and a former state vice chancellor.

"I think it's an inevitable move that needs to be made," said Russell, who noted that he was speaking as a campus president.

The restrictions on California's community colleges date back some 50 years to the state's Master Plan for Higher Education, which defined the roles of each segment — community colleges, the University of California and California State University — to avoid competition and duplication. That plan is under review, and some note that CSU now offers some doctoral degrees, once considered UC's exclusive role.

"We don't need to stand still forever," said John Aubrey Douglass, of UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education. "There's been very little innovation in our structure."

Supporters note the state will need 1 million more bachelor's degree-holders by 2025, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

21 Number of states in which four-year degree programs are offered at community colleges.

NATION



DEAN BESSERER, GRAPHITE ONE RESOURCES/AP

A technician holds a graphite core sample drilled near Graphite Creek, a mineral claim being explored by Graphite One Resources north of Nome, Alaska. A surge in prices in 2012 and the hope for expanded uses for graphite in electric car batteries has spurred exploration for high-grade flake graphite in North America and around the world.

Pushing for more 'pencil lead'

Tech needs, decline in Chinese supply spark wave of graphite-mining projects

By DAN JOLING

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Tear apart an electric car's rechargeable battery and you'll find a mineral normally associated with No. 2 pencils.

It's graphite.

Experts say the promise of expanded uses for "pencil lead" in lithium-ion batteries — used in cars, cellphones and tablet computers — as well as a decrease in supply from China has helped touch off the largest wave of mining projects in decades.

"There's an awful lot of exploration. Lots of companies looking for graphite," said Don Hains, an expert in industrial minerals.

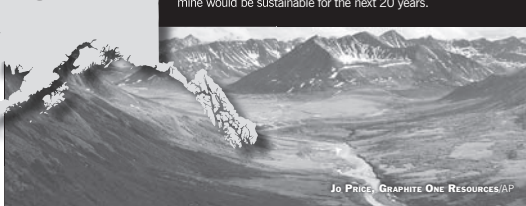
The U.S. imports all of its natural graphite, but mining companies are searching locations from Alaska to Alabama, optimistic about future demand.

From technological to industrial, the mineral's products comprise a \$13 billion industry, and firms see opportunity in producing high-purity, large-flake graphite for "lithium-ion batteries and other new renewable energy forms," said Hains, a specialist with Watts, Griffiths and McQuat Limited, a geological and mining consultant firm in Toronto.

China, meanwhile, appears to have eased its grip on world production, creating an opening that hasn't existed since the mid-'90s, mining companies say.

China accounted for 750 million metric tons out of a global total of 1.1 billion met-

**Alaska's
graphite
gold mine**



JO PRICE, GRAPHITE ONE RESOURCES/AP

Vancouver, British Columbia-based Graphite One Resources recently announced an increase in the amount of high-grade graphite they expect to be able to pull from a claim north of Nome on the slopes of the Kiglaui Mountains, below. There are 285 million metric tons in a continuous 3-mile stretch near the surface of the mountain, officials said. They expect an active mine would be sustainable for the next 20 years.

ric tons in 2012, the most recent year records were available, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Chinese output that year was down 50 million metric tons from 2011 as the government closed mines for environmental issues and resource protection, according to the USGS.

Also, the growth of China's steel industry has boosted its domestic demand for industrial-grade graphite, used in foundries for its heat-resistant properties, leading to a new graphite export tax, experts say.

The developments contributed to a sharp rise in the price of large-flake graphite, peaking at \$3,000 per ton in early 2012. The

price has dropped back to about \$1,300 per ton, but economic optimism has remained.

"There's certainly more than 200, and at one point there were over 300 companies, or individual projects, being looked at around the world," Hains said.

In Alaska, a claim north of Nome on the slopes of the Kiglaui Mountains is being explored by Vancouver, British Columbia-based Graphite One Resources.

Several other companies are searching in the U.S. USA Graphite is exploring properties in Nevada. Graphite Corp. and Alabama Graphite Corp. are exploring in Alabama. And Graphite Corp. also has a

prospect in Montana. Far more firms are searching in Canada.

The last time the industry saw this much activity in North America was two decades ago, during a perceived supply shortage. Exploration also increased in Australia and Africa, but China responded by supplying a flood of graphite without increasing the price. "Basically, the Chinese bought the market," Hains said.

This time, explorers are confident they can find a niche supplying battery makers — especially if China continues to take measures that restrict exports.

Mining companies see potential for growth in electric cars. Nissan spokesman Brian Brockman has said there are 57 pounds of graphite in the lithium-ion battery of each Leaf.

Hains, however, remains skeptical of a surge solely from such vehicles. Automakers sold about 97,000 battery electric vehicles in 2013, less than 1 percent of the 15.5 million vehicles sold in the U.S., according to the Electric Drive Transportation Association.

Batteries for renewable power sources, such as those that store solar and wind energy, may be a more important use, Hains said. Also, the USGS says energy companies are developing large-scale, fuel cell projects that could one day consume as much graphite as all other uses combined.

For any new operation, consistent sales will depend on providing specific properties to specific buyers, Hains said. "You can't just say you have graphite for sale and expect everybody will come knocking at your door," he said.

MOVIES



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/P

Mr. Peabody, the most accomplished dog in the world, and his mischievous boy, Sherman, use their time machine to go on the most outrageous adventures known to man or dog. After Sherman misuses the time machine, Mr. Peabody must come to the rescue before events of the past, present and future are forever altered in "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

A dog and his boy

Mr. Peabody time-travels to 21st century for new film

BY REBECCA KEEGAN
Los Angeles Times

Mr. Peabody, who first attained fame in the series of wryly humorous, six-minute shorts wedged between "Rocky & Bullwinkle" and "Dudley Do-Right" cartoons, is staging a career comeback in the new DreamWorks Animation movie "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

Mr. Peabody's second act has come with some cosmetic changes as well as personal growth. That it's happening at all is thanks largely to the persistence of his two-legged collaborators, notably director Rob Minkoff and Tiffany Ward, the daughter of one of his creators, Jay Ward.

In the original cartoon as well as the new film, Mr. Peabody is a Nobel laureate, a master inventor and a great dinner party host. But Minkoff and writer Craig Wright have added some emotional depth to Peabody's relationship with his adopted human son, Sherman.

Voiced by "Modern Family's" Ty Burrell, Mr. Peabody has trouble expressing his feelings when Sherman (Max Charles) goes off to school. When a classmate (Ariel Winter) engages in some species-ist bullying, Sherman takes his father's time-travel device for a dangerous joyride to impress her.

With stops in ancient Greece, Renaissance Italy and revolutionary France, the film preserves many of the chief conventions of the series, including Peabody's reliance on verbal humor.

"The adventurous thing was always going to be a part of it," said Minkoff, who directed "The Lion King" and "Stuart

Little" movies. "The question was, 'What were we going to do to flesh out the story? How were we going to treat this as a more dimensional thing?' The show was six minutes, the setup was super clear: a dog and his boy. Peabody says he built the time machine because a growing boy needs to get out, and living in Manhattan is tough. So it was, 'What do they do when they're not time traveling? What's the other side of the coin?'"

In 1958, Jay Ward, an entrepreneurial California real estate agent with a creative itch, persuaded General Mills to sponsor a cartoon se-

"Dad switched it around and said, 'Let's make the genius the dog.'"
Tiffany Ward
daughter of Jay Ward, one of Mr. Peabody & Sherman's creators

ries built around a moose and a squirrel, and enlisted United Productions of America writer and producer Bill Scott to help him.

"They were thinking all they'd need was five minutes or so," Tiffany Ward said. "After they signed the deal, they realized it's a half-hour show." To fill out the time, Jay Ward and Scott would have to add other series, and cartoonist Ted Key suggested one about a boy with a time-travel belt and a dog.

"Dad switched it around," Tiffany Ward said, "and said, 'Let's make the genius the dog.'"

The various iterations of "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show," which aired on

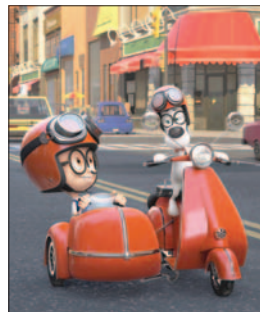
ABC and NBC, were never a ratings hit, but they acquired a cult status thanks to a high/low style of humor. In one episode, Peabody and Sherman talked Beethoven out of a cooking career so he'd get back to work composing the Ninth Symphony; in another, Geronimo offered Peabody an autographed picture of Tonto and two tickets to Knott's Berry Farm in exchange for a rocking horse.

For many kids of the 1960s and '70s, including Minkoff, 51, "Peabody's Improbable History" was an entertaining entry point to the social sciences.

"I loved the fact that Peabody was a teacher and that he would take Sherman on these incredible adventures to meet these crazy characters," Minkoff said. "And I got introduced to these historical figures. As a kid, you're like, 'This must be important.' And you can laugh at the silliness of it. And then, of course, later you're learning about those figures in class, and it was good to have a little connection to it. History turned out to be my favorite subject."

As part of "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show," Peabody and Sherman have lived on in syndication on cable. Since her father's death in 1989, Tiffany Ward has developed his characters on behalf of Jay Ward Productions in other media with uneven results. There was the 1997 live-action box office hit "George of the Jungle" for Disney and the 2000 dud "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" for Universal.

"I've always looked at everything from his perspective or how he would handle it," Ward said. "Dad wanted theatrical movies, but he was very reclusive and wasn't out there marketing. One of his rules was that his characters could never be seen with



other characters, but one of my visions was to be in theme parks. You have to get it down to the next generation and have the interactive part. I haven't done anything he wouldn't be really proud of, but there were a few changes."

Over the years, Ward said, she has also fended off 21 separate lawsuits over rights to her father's characters. "Every musician who'd ever worked on it came out of the woodwork, every artist came out of the woodwork," Ward said.

In 2002, she and Minkoff met for the first time, finding a shared passion for her father's work and beginning a more-than-decade-long effort to bring Peabody and Sherman to the big screen. Ward and Minkoff outlasted a rotating cast of production partners, and they recovered from the revelation late in the scripting process that the 2010 animated film "Despicable Me" had a nearly identical plot involving a villain stealing the seven wonders of the world.

In 2011, DreamWorks Animation greenlighted the film, and Minkoff and Wright, whose credits include "United States of Tara" and "Dirty Sexy Money," sculpted the story around a modern parenting theme.

Artists at the animation studio toyed with changing Peabody's appearance, but largely preserved his upright, graphically spare design, bow-tie and glasses.

"This idea that Sherman would be going to school for the first time, that's a seminal moment for parents," said Minkoff. "Even though he's a dog, that's not what it's about. He's a father who has a son and the relationship is going through a change."

LIFESTYLE



How does a library mark National Tooth Fairy Day? With a dental care "shelfie," of course. This is just one of the "shelfies" the Akron-Summit County Public Library has posted on social media recently.

Strike a prose

Library's 'shelfies' put witty twist on social media photos

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal

What do you get when bookshelves pose for a picture?

A group shelfie, of course.

Go ahead and groan, but give the Akron-Summit County Public Library credit for a pretty good visual pun.

For the past few weeks, the Ohio library has been coaxing smiles from its social media followers with its "shelfies," cleverly planned photos of books and other materials on its shelves. The pictures have included a shelfie of Devo videos in memory of band member Bob Casale and a roundup of Richard Simmons exercise videos as an antidote for the indulgences of Fat Tuesday.

The concept is, of course, a less narcissistic twist on selfies, self-portraits that have become a staple on social media sites.

Michael Derr, the overseer of the library system's social media efforts and a committed foodie, had seen cookbook shelfies on food sites and thought the concept might work well for the library. He started posting the photos in mid-February on the library's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites.

"We were trying to find a way to make our Facebook page a little more interesting and get people talking," Derr said. It's also a way to counter the impression that the library is a staid place, he said. "I can't certainly not invent it," he said of the trend, "but we're willing to exploit it."

Where the shelfie idea started is hard to pinpoint, but the concept was boosted by the British newspaper The Guardian, which in December urged readers to post pictures of their bookshelves on social media and created the hashtag #shelfie to categorize the photos.

The New York Public Library took the concept further, declaring a Library Shelfie Day on Jan.

Follow Akron-Summit County Public Library's shelfie exploits
facebook.com/akronlibrary
twitter.com/akronlibrary
instagram.com/akronlibrary

29 to encourage postings by book lovers using the hashtag #libraryshelfie. Organizers Morgan Holzer and Billy Parrott were inspired by Museum Selfie Day that month, when museum employees and visitors were urged to shoot themselves — metaphorically speaking — in front of museum displays as a way of promoting those exhibits.

Holzer and Parrott posted shelfies every day for a week leading up to Shelfie Day to stir up interest. But they didn't see much evidence of the event being promoted by other libraries, so they anticipated getting maybe 100 submissions, said Holzer, the New York library's information architect and unofficial keeper of its Instagram account.

By the end of the day, about 1,500 photos had been posted on Instagram and another 1,800 on Twitter, she said. "It was kind of insane."

There were photos of bookshelves arranged in rainbow order, photos of cats on bookshelves, photos of people hiding behind books. They came from individuals as well as 248 libraries and other institutions from 14 countries.

Derr is trying to keep the fun going in Akron, but feeding the shelfie beast isn't always easy. He had some trouble coming up with a theme for last Wednesday's post, the start of Lent being off limits for such tongue-in-cheek treatment. But his research turned up an obscure observance: National Cheese Doodle Day.

"I did a run to the vending machines, and thankfully we had some cheese doodles," he said. The result: a shelfie showing a bowlful of the unnaturally



A "shelfie" posted by the library suggests an antidote to Fat Tuesday bingeing.

Background:
Books pose for a "group shelfie" in the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY VIA AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

colored snacks next to books on cheese. After all, who hasn't snacked on something sinful while in the grip of a good read?

Derr admitted the library might have sent a confusing message with that one. "Typically, we discourage that behavior," he said with a laugh.

But if the post encourages people to read, he said, then it's worth a few orange-stained pages.

LIFESTYLE

In search of a forever family

Agency recruits relatives to provide homes for teens stuck in foster care

By LAURA BAUER

The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

Tom Prudden jotted the name in his notebook almost as an afterthought. "Uncle Tony." The odds weren't good, but maybe. Maybe this was the relative who would step up and take Charlie, almost 16 and so lost and vulnerable, into his home, ending years in foster care. Though the goal in Charlie's case always was adoption, his chances were slipping away.

Many kids who linger in the foster system into their teens "age out" without ever being adopted. When they turn 18, they find themselves on their own without family or much support. If they have developmental delays and disabilities, they can land in group homes.

Charlie would come with acronyms and diagnoses: ADHD, PTSD from early child abuse. Autism. Mental disabilities. A foster care teen for at least four years, he hadn't even learned to throw a ball.

Sorting through his extended family to find a loving relative to save him would no doubt be tough. Prudden turned to his computer keyboard and typed the name: Tony Barnes.

"I didn't know if I'd ever find his Uncle Tony," Prudden said. And if he did, would Barnes be willing to care for Charlie?

This case would be one of Prudden's first at the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association of Kansas City, Mo. For 25 years he had worked for the Kansas City Police Department, investigating everything from vice and property crimes to asset forfeitures and robberies. Ready to retire, he one day saw an ad online. "Investigator needed for Extreme Recruitment."

He looked into it and found a program inspired by a reality TV show. Extreme Recruitment dictates massive resources in a short period of time, 12 to 20 weeks, to find permanent homes for longtime foster kids — often 12 or older.

These are children who often have been abused and neglected and who have bounced from foster home to foster home.

Prudden started by going to Charlie's grandmother and biological mom, whose parental rights were terminated years ago. Even though another investigator had already spoken with them, Prudden hoped to get more.

"I'm a people finder," he explained to the two. "We're going to expand your family tree." He asked for names of siblings, uncles and cousins. Maybe someone on the list would be willing to adopt Charlie, he told them.

"Do whatever you have to do," Charlie's mom told Prudden, "because when he turns 18 he'll come



PHOTOS BY DAVID EULITT/The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

Above: Tony Barnes, left, smiles with his adopted son, Charlie, 17, in their Blue Springs, Mo., home. An adoption association contacted Barnes in a last effort to place Charlie, who is Barnes' cousin, with a family member in a permanent home. Charlie has ADHD, PTSD from early child abuse, autism and some mental disabilities. Right: Charlie gives Barnes a playful hug.

back to us. He'll find us."

In its first two years in Kansas City, Extreme Recruitment has served 74 kids. There is currently a waiting list as Prudden and the two recruiters have full loads. Money for the program comes from grants and the state.

Prudden's online search yielded two hits on Barnes' name. One looked likely. But there was no phone number, just an address.

He knocked on the door at 1:30 on a fall afternoon in 2012.

He introduced himself and the association and told Barnes about Charlie and how they were related.

"How'd you find me?" said Barnes. It was clear that he was a little uneasy about a stranger showing up at his house talking about his family.

In his early 40s, Barnes had worked his way up to corporate management in the restaurant industry and planned to retire in a couple of years. Then he would think about starting a family. Barnes figured he wanted four children.

Prudden told him more about

Charlie, showed him a picture and told him that the teen had developmental delays and disabilities and didn't have a permanent home.

That hit Barnes.

How could a member of his own family not have a home and blood relatives to support him?

Barnes recalled visiting with Charlie's grandmother and mother but had seen the teen only once, as a newborn. Barnes had no idea the boy had been in foster care.

Taking in all the information about Extreme Recruitment and his distant cousin, Barnes told Prudden he'd be in touch.

The guy's not sold, Prudden thought as he climbed in his car and headed back to the office. He might not want to get involved.

Maybe he'd call. Maybe he wouldn't. Maybe there was someone else out there who could



"This little guy never had a chance. I thought, the right thing to do is I take care of him, help him, because he is a part of my family."

Tony Barnes

Charlie's new dad

him, because he is a part of my family."

The adoption became final last May.

"All you have to do is one thing: Not think about yourself," Barnes says. "As long as I make my mom proud in heaven and these kids are happy, that's all I want."

Charlie finishes the last of his fried potatoes and green beans and fidgets in his chair. He's got something to say and can't wait to share it.

"Can I take you on a tour?" he asks a visitor. "You want to see my room?"

Already in his pajamas and a thick bathrobe, Charlie has been home sick all day. Now he's feeling better and excited to have company.

And he's proud. Proud to live in a home with a framed picture of Barnes and his inspiration, country singer Barbara Mandrell, a big couch for movie nights, a backyard pool and his own bedroom.

Barnes painted those walls and hung posters and, with Grimsley, stocked shelves and boxes with toys.

Barnes gently tells Charlie he needs to finish dinner before there's any tour.

Every night at 6, the three sit down in the dining room for a full meal. With them are another teenage boy and a 3-year-old girl, foster children unrelated to Barnes' family.

Charlie is happy here.

"I like pizza night because it's a-mazing," Charlie says, raising his hands above his head in the shape of a big "V." He smiles widely.

Four times she says he feels safe. "I wasn't safe before," he says. "Tony tried to save my life. ... I love him with all my heart."

All it took was for someone to find Barnes.

If no one had looked for him, he never would have been found. And Charlie might never have had a forever family.

"I am Tony's son," Charlie says. Then he turns to Barnes and asks "Right?"

Barnes smiles back. "Yes. Yes, you are."

Find the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association online at mfcaa.org.

HEALTH & FITNESS

By LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Every die-hard fitness fanatic cheers the benefits of eating right and exercising: Reduced risk of disease! Increased energy! A better sense of mental, physical, emotional self!

But there is a caveat to all that rah-rah: You can overdo it. While that won't necessarily negate what you're doing, it can make your lifestyle less effective than you might think.

To help you stop, we asked a couple of experts for specifics on how too much of a good thing can be bad for you. Megan Lyons recently opened a health-coaching company in Dallas. Kathy Dieringer is a board member of the Dallas-based National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Working out hard every day

The reason: "Our bodies need rest," Lyons says, "and performing high-intensity exercise every single day does not allow adequate time for muscle repair and recovery."

Adds Dieringer: "Rest between exercising is just as important as the exercise itself. If you don't allow your body to rest and recover between bouts, it will break down eventually."

The solution: If you must do something every day, make sure it's lower intensity, like a non-power walk or stretching, Lyons says.

Vary the intensity of your workouts, says Dieringer, owner of D&D Sports Med in Denton, Sanger and Aubrey, Texas. Take a few days off if you show such signs of over-training as insomnia, restlessness, continued soreness, burnout or irritability. If you're injured, take time to heal.

"Moderation is tough, especially in those individuals who are high achievers and believe they must work out every day," Dieringer says. "I'd encourage everyone to keep a training log so they can look back on what they've been doing and objectively analyze their workout regimen."

Swearing by only one exercise or routine

The reason: In addition to the boredom factor, doing the same workout over and over increases your risk of overuse injury, Lyons says.

Additionally, "you'll neglect other muscles. This often leads to muscle imbalances, which can cause or exacerbate injuries."

The solution: Try a new class, or exercise with a friend who does a workout you don't.

Believing that pain equals gain

The reason: Being sore is one thing; pain is another. Pain often signals an injury, which means you'll have to stop working out for a while.

The solution: Your body lets you know when it's time to rest and time to move, Dieringer says, so listen to it.

"Pushing through soreness is OK, as long as we're sure that's what it is, but you should not try to push through pain," she says. "Any type of soreness or discomfort that doesn't go away with rest and proper care after a few days should not be pushed through."

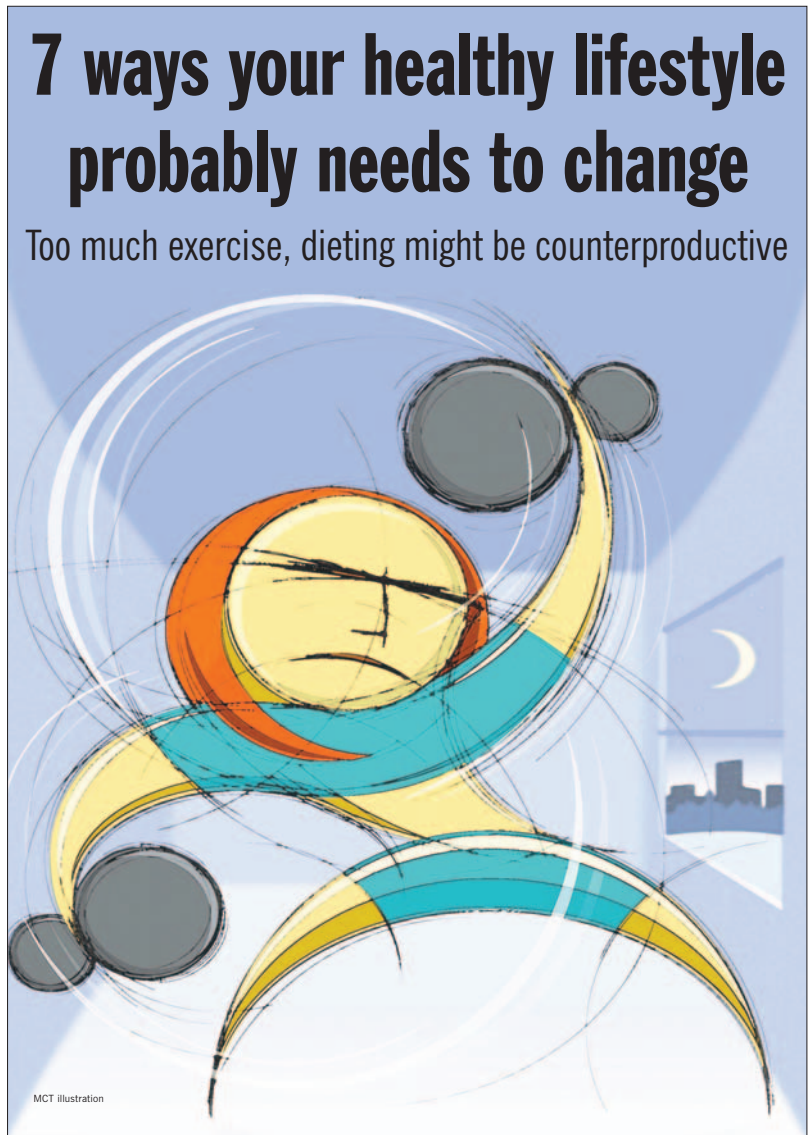
At that point, seek professional help, she says.

Loading up on sports drinks and energy bars

The reason: You probably don't need these, which are geared for athletes exercising "under intense conditions for prolonged time periods," Lyons says. They contain excess sugar that can quickly add up and even counteract the workout.

In other words, you might be eating more than you're burning off.

The solution: Refuel with carb-heavy



MCT illustration

gels and drinks only when your workout lasts longer than an hour, or 30 minutes "in incredibly hot conditions," she says.

Your best bet for a beverage? Water.

Thinking gluten-free is a panacea

The reason: Gluten-free items are trendy but fall prey to what Lyons calls the "halo effect." That is, "causing us to assume anything labeled gluten-free is automatically healthy."

In many instances, they have "fewer nu-

trients, more calories and more sugar than the real thing," she says.

The solution: Unless your body has a true intolerance for gluten, you're better off choosing whole grains and whole-grain products without that gluten-free label, she says.

Overdoing diet products

The reason: Many are overly processed and contain additives and preservatives our bodies don't recognize as food, Lyons says.

"Even when a product is marketed as

healthy or diet, the calories still add up," she says. Unfortunately, many of us think of these as "free food."

The solution: Choose a whole-food option such as a piece of fruit or a vegetable-based salad, she says.

Sticking with tried-and-true

The reason: Doing what we've always done or what we were taught as young athletes isn't necessarily valid, Dieringer says.

The solution: Do your research; seek advice from experts, not from fads.

VIDEO GAMES

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

At first glance, "Titanfall" is both amazing and intimidating.

The fast-paced action mixes gunplay, parkour, giant robots and a multitude of explosions in a wild flurry of activity that's far more exhilarating than the typical shooter fare. But it also might seem a bit overwhelming — like the sort of game that could be mastered only by the most overly caffeinated joystick junky. Fortunately, the game offers the best of both of these worlds: incredible action and accessible gameplay.

The sci-fi shooter was developed for Electronic Arts by Respawn Entertainment, a company formed by developers who helped create "Call of Duty." The game is currently available for the Xbox One and PC and will be available at the end of the month for Xbox 360.

"Titanfall" is set on the frontier of known space, where the Interstellar Manufacturing Corp. doesn't hesitate to use force to get things done. The company's methods raise the hackles of some of the region's settlers, who decide to form a militia to stand up to IMC.

The game sidesteps single-player action altogether and tells its story through a multiplayer campaign. Unfortunately, the storyline isn't much more than a thin thread that gives the barest of details about the conflict and its heroes. Each mission starts with a quick voiceover and cutscene and contains snippets of dialogue that advance the narrative. But once the shooting starts, you'd be hard-pressed to tell the difference between a campaign mission and a regular multiplayer match.

But concerns about the storyline are likely to be forgotten once the action begins.

In both the campaign and in the regular multiplayer mode, missions feature six-on-six competition in a variety of deathmatch and capture-the-flag formats. In addition to player characters, each side is provided with a handful of computer-controlled soldiers who provide more targets and minor challenges without the chaos that would ensue if additional players were involved.

Each player can fight in two modes: as an agile infantryman or as the pilot of a large mechanized Titan. It's this blend of playing styles, plus an innovative movement system and well-designed maps that set "Titanfall" apart from other shooters.

Matches begin with players being dropped onto the battlefield as foot soldiers known as "pilots," since they also pilot Titans.

While most of these troops look like they could inhabit almost any sci-fi shooter, there's one key difference: the jetpack. This gadget enables pilots to sprint on vertical surfaces, leap atop buildings and complete enormous double-jumps that carry them great distances. First-time viewers might suspect that these actions are difficult to execute, but a smooth



Photos courtesy of Electronic Arts

In the online multiplayer sci-fi shooter "Titanfall," players can fight in two modes: as an agile infantryman or the pilot of a large mechanized Titan.



Rise of the giants

'Titanfall' brings big action to the Xbox One

and efficient control system makes them a breeze to pull off.

And with a little practice, you can execute some pretty impressive maneuvers. For example, I was watching as a friend leaped atop an enemy Titan, trying to take out the pilot. As his vehicle took damage, the enemy decided to eject, a move that also propelled my friend skyward. In midair, my friend spun around and blasted his foe before he hit the ground. Definitely cool.

The maps have been designed to take advantage of the pilots' abilities, offering plenty of buildings with multiple floors and many access points.

All of this creates a game of maneuver on a variety of vertical and horizontal planes that is as fun to watch as it is to play.

While the Titans aren't as agile as foot soldiers, they aren't the lumbering mechs of bygone games. Titans can run, crouch and dodge almost as well as the soldiers in a typical shooter.

Titans generally aren't available until a game is a few minutes old. After you take out an enemy or two, you'll be informed that your Titan will soon be available. You can reduce your wait time by eliminating more enemies.

When you call down a Titan, the mech will come roaring down from orbit and land at the designated spot with a satisfying thud.

It remains cocooned in a force field for several seconds so you have time to climb aboard and get your bearings. Then, it's time to fight.

Fights between Titans are massive brawls featuring chain guns,



cannons, electrical weapons, giant grenades and missiles. Mechs also can use force shields to catch ordnance in flight and hurl it back at their assailants. If things get close and personal, the battle might even involve fistfights — which often ends with one Titan pilot being pulled from his mech and hurled across the battlefield by the victor.

When piloting a mech, your

main targets will probably be other Titans, but you're sure to spend almost as much time blasting and stomping foot soldiers. While the little people might be squishy, they still present a lot of danger. Foot soldiers can chip away at your mech with a Sidewinder gun, interfere with your vision by using electromagnetic-pulse grenades or deal a crippling blow with a rocket. However, the biggest dan-

Overall grade: **A**

ger is having an enemy climb onto your Titan and start unloading his weapon into your electronics. Your only options are to exit your mech and shoot the offender or unleash a cloud of "electric smoke," which can fry him. However, the second option is available only if you decide to equip it at the expense of the force shield that can catch enemy ordnance.

Although these elements elevate "Titanfall" above other shooters, developers didn't forget to spend time on providing an excellent arsenal for those on the ground.

On foot, you are equipped with a primary weapon, a pistol and an anti-Titan weapon.

Primary weapons include shotguns, submachine guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles and something known as a smart pistol. Most of these weapons could come straight out of almost any shooter. On the other hand, smart pistols are a bit unusual. As you aim down the barrel, they will lock on to any enemies who appear in the sights. When you squeeze the trigger, it will fire a round for each lock. Computer-controlled characters require just one lock, but player characters require three. The need to gain three locks on players and the weapon's limited range keep it from feeling overpowered.

In fact, all of the weapons seemed to be well-balanced, even after being equipped with scopes, silencers and other attachments that can be unlocked by gaining experience. I never felt like someone gained a cheap kill on me — something that I could never say about a "Call of Duty" game.

The graphics are sharp, detailed and vibrant, which makes the frenzied combat easy to follow. The character renderings and animations are very lifelike and appealing. And the settings — ranging from cities to weird planets inhabited by dragon-like creatures — are packed with the kind of texture and detail that make them look realistic.

Aside from the thin storyline, my only gripe about "Titanfall" concerns the matchmaking system. In some games, a side can be left with only four or five members instead of six. This is rare in regular matches but was relatively common in campaign missions. This leaves that side at a tremendous disadvantage. When I was on the short end, I would have happily waited a little longer for each side to fill out.

The game gets a Mature rating because of violence and blood, but it's pretty tame compared to most of the other shooters out there.

Bottom line: A "Titanfall" is one of the most innovative and entertaining shooters to arrive on the scene in years.

Platforms: Xbox One, Xbox 360 (in late March), PC

Online: titanfall.com

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon Prime raised to \$99 annually

By MAE ANDERSON

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon is raising the price of its popular Prime membership to \$99 per year, an increase of \$20.

It's the first price increase since the online retailer introduced its Prime membership program, which includes two-day free shipping on many products, in 2005. The company said in January it would probably raise the price by between \$20 and \$40.

The hike will apply to users when they renew their membership. Users who renew membership before April 17 will pay \$79 for the year. After April 17 the price will change to \$99. New customers that start a free trial between now and March 20 will lock in the \$79 rate for the first year.

Amazon has spent heavily to grow its business and expand into new areas, from movie streaming to e-readers and groceries, and it



PAUL SAKUMA/AP

An Amazon.com package awaits UPS delivery in Palo Alto, Calif.

has accomplished that goal.

The company said it added a million new Prime members in the week before Christmas and a surge in online ordering in the U.S. contributed to huge delays for people sending gifts just ahead of the holiday.

But that has rankled some investors, who are looking for bigger returns.

In an email Thursday to members, the Seattle company stressed that it has not raised the price on Prime in the nine years since its launch, even though shipping costs have increased and it has added new services, such as video streaming. The number of products available for two-day shipping has grown to 20 million from 1 million.

Amazon doesn't disclose how many Prime members it has, but it said in December that it has "tens of millions" of members worldwide.

Cowen & Co. analyst John Blackledge estimates there are about 23 million U.S. prime members. Blackledge said that since the bulk of new memberships occur in the fourth quarter, around the holidays, the benefit of the price hike will probably be felt next year.

MARKET WATCH

March 13, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-231.19
Nasdaq composite	-62.91
Standard & Poor's 500	-21.86
Russell 2000	-14.63
	1,176.74

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 17)	\$1.4243
Dollar buys (March 17)	€0.7021
British pound (March 17)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (March 17)	100.00
South Korean won (March 17)	1,044.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6619
Canada (Dollar)	1.1063
China (Yuan)	6.1363
Denmark (Krone)	5.3852
Egypt (Pound)	6.9628
Euro	\$1.3858/0.7216
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8555
Hungary (Forint)	276.35
Israel (Sheqel)	3.7499
Japan (Yen)	101.67
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2814
Norway (Krone)	5.9776
Philippines (Peso)	44.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.306
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2666
South Korea (Won)	1,069.50
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8753
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.36
Turkey (Lira)	2.2331

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., nonlocal British pounds in Germany), which with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.39

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

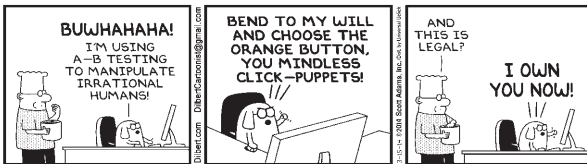
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	74	44	Cldy	Chattanooga	71	49	Pcldy	Flint	35	7	Cldy	Lincoln	68	25	Pcldy	Peoria	54	26	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	42	19	Cldy	Cheyenne	40	25	Cir	Fort Smith	66	50	Rain	Little Rock	68	50	Rain	St. Louis	57	24	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	44	19	Cldy	Chicago	42	17	Cldy	Fort Wayne	43	21	Pcldy	Los Angeles	84	56	Cldy	St. Pete	84	56	Cldy
Albuquerque	61	33	Cir	Cincinnati	56	33	Cir	Fresno	78	52	Cir	Lubbock	70	39	Pcldy	Phoenix	84	56	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	53	28	Cldy	Cleveland	39	18	Cldy	Grand Junction	54	26	Pcldy	Macon	71	52	Cldy	Pocatello	55	32	Cldy
Amarillo	64	33	Cldy	Colorado Springs	51	26	Cldy	Grand Rapids	47	7	Cldy	Madison	57	12	Cldy	Portland, Me.	47	24	Cldy
Anchorage	22	13	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	73	50	Cldy	Great Falls	50	37	Cldy	Medford	72	41	Cir	Providence	55	29	Rain
Asheville	66	43	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	71	55	Cldy	Green Bay	30	1	Cldy	Memphis	68	53	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	71	45	Pcldy
Atlanta	67	52	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	50	31	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	49	33	Pcldy	Miami Beach	79	70	Pcldy	Reno	68	37	Cir
Atlantic City	62	33	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	45	19	Rain	Harrisburg	54	29	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	75	42	Cldy	Richmond	68	39	Pcldy
Austin	73	55	Cldy	Corpus Christi	77	61	Cldy	Hartford Spfld	52	26	Cldy	Milwaukee	36	14	Cldy	Roanoke	64	42	Cldy
Baltimore	65	34	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	69	52	Cldy	Helena	51	34	Cldy	Mobile	70	60	Cldy	Rochester	52	46	Cldy
Baton Rouge	72	62	Rain	Dayton	50	30	Cir	Honolulu	79	67	Rain	Missoula	69	57	Cldy	Rockford	42	15	Cldy
Billings	51	32	Cir	Daytona Beach	77	59	Pcldy	Houston	73	62	Cldy	New Orleans	71	52	Rain	Sacramento	64	45	Cldy
Birmingham	67	53	Rain	Denver	46	26	Cir	Huntsville	67	53	Cldy	Montgomery	65	57	Cldy	St. Louis	69	37	Cir
Bismarck	23	11	Snow	Des Moines	62	26	Pcldy	Indianapolis	53	28	Pcldy	Nashville	68	51	Cldy	St. Petersburg	79	65	Cldy
Boise	58	36	Cir	Detroit	38	13	Cldy	Kansas City	41	33	Cldy	New York City	63	29	Pcldy	St. Thomas	84	76	Cldy
Boston	53	28	Rain	Duluth	21	-6	Snow	Jacksonville	75	55	Pcldy	Newark	55	31	Pcldy	Salem, Ore.	65	45	Cldy
Bridgeport	50	27	Cldy	El Paso	74	46	Cir	Janeau	49	30	Snow	Newark	55	31	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	57	35	Cldy
Brownsville	67	67	Cldy	Elkins	37	17	Pcldy	Kansas City	41	33	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	77	47	Cldy	San Angelo	77	47	Cldy
Buffalo	42	16	Cldy	Erie	36	16	Snow	Key West	79	72	Pcldy	North Platte	52	23	Cldy	San Antonio	78	55	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	47	11	Cldy	Eugene	63	41	Pcldy	Knoxville	65	48	Cldy	Oklahoma City	68	42	Cldy	San Diego	73	58	Cldy
Canton, Mass.	37	14	Snow	Evansville	63	40	Pcldy	Lake Charles	70	61	Rain	Omaha	65	26	Pcldy	San Francisco	71	51	Cldy
Casper	41	24	Cldy	Fairbanks	21	-12	Snow	Lansing	33	8	Cldy	Orlando	81	58	Pcldy	San Jose	78	49	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	75	54	Cldy	Fargo	21	5	Snow	Las Vegas	76	53	Cldy	Paduach	65	47	Pcldy	San Juan, P.R.	84	74	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	58	36	Pcldy	Flagstaff	56	27	Cir	Lexington	58	36	Pcldy	Pendleton	60	41	Pcldy				

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

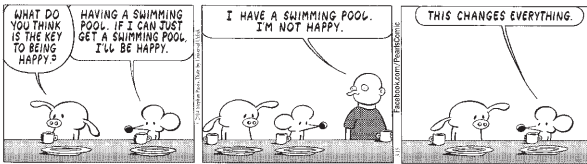
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



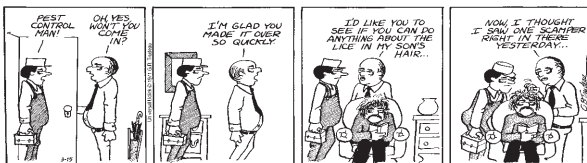
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



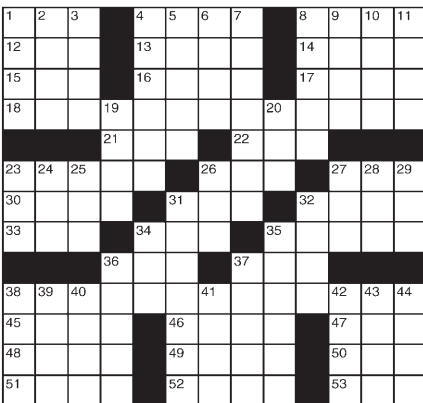
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Half pint

2 Hot tubs

3 Pepsi rival

12 Consumed

13 Yoopers' st.

14 Saharan

16 Daughter of Elizabeth

17 Take out of context?

18 1980 Brooke Shields movie

21 Jungfrau, for one

22 Recline

23 Unisex casualwear

26 Hit hard

27 Honest politician

30 Eager

31 Elmer, to Bugs

32 Overly proper one

33 Enraged

34 Dispensable treat

35 Cajun stew

36 In favor of

37 Old letter opener

38 Beyonce and Jay-Z's child

45 Highway division

46 "— the Mood for Love"

47 Chopper

48 "Metamorphoses" poet

49 Highlander

50 Art medium

DOWN

51 Crazy

52 Painter Holbein

53 Pigs' digs

24 Moonwalk acronym

25 Help

26 Peri's "Frasier" role

27 Get ready to rumble

28 Clothes protector

29 Swelled head

31 Muslim ascetic

32 Contented sound

34 Luau dish

35 New York squad

36 Nourishes

37 Offspring

38 Amorphous mass

39 Volcanic flow

40 Troop group

41 Village People hit

42 New Mexico art

43 Way out

44 Depend (on)

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-15

CRYPTOQUIP

MIJ HPXHMRA IHQ OHUWJQ
RS BJPJAHG JEMAH ORLSQB.
BR BRKJRSJ JEUGHXKJQ.

"MIJ OXGRM MIXUWJSB!"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE HURRICANE AT SEA DEMOLISHED ALL THE SHIP'S SAIL SUPPORTERS, IT WAS MAST DESTRUCTION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals O

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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OPINION

Can Americans just 'stop being poor'?

By JOEL MATHIS and BEN BOYCHUK

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It started out as a seeming faux pas; now it's a slogan for the right. Fox Business commentator Todd Wilenson last week made waves when he told a "Daily Show" correspondent a way to defeat the problems of poverty: "If you're poor, stop being poor."

While Wilenson was mocked on the left, conservatives lauded him. "Stop being poor" has worked very well for the United States," said one writer at National Review.

Can Americans just "stop being poor"? Why or why not? Joel Mathis and Ben Boychuk, the RedBlueAmerica columnists, debate the issue.

BEN BOYCHUK

Snark all you like, but "stop being poor" isn't the worst advice in the world. Not even close.

"Stop being poor" might be best understood as quintessentially American shorthand for refusing to accept your economic lot in life. Although people are born into poverty, and it's never been easy to climb from the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, it remains the case that nobody is condemned to remain poor in America. Not even now.

Maybe we shouldn't be so surprised that the liberal hipsters at "The Daily Show" and their perpetually aggrieved fellow travelers in the progressive blogosphere would take offense so easily. It's no accident that the Great Recession and its aftermath have fostered a growing sense of fatalism that the Land of Opportunity isn't what it used to be. By many measurements, the country is stagnating—and government is largely to blame.

Enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—food stamps, to you and me—has grown more than 70

percent during Barack Obama's time in the Oval Office. Congress is bickering over whether and how to extend unemployment benefits, now at 99 weeks. The president this week announced he would change the nation's workplace overtime rules without the consent of Congress. Last month, he unilaterally raised the minimum wage for federal contractors.

As it happens, Obama's budget proposal notes that 70 percent of federal spending this year will be in the form of direct payments to individuals. "These government transfers now account for 15 percent of GDP," writes John Merline at Investor's Business Daily. That's a record high. And, no, that isn't a good thing.

All of this suggests government is trying to usurp the private sector and the free market as drivers of prosperity and upward mobility. But it doesn't work. It's never worked in America.

"Food stamps did not make food plentiful and cheap," notes National Review roving correspondent Kevin Williamson. "More farmland, better irrigation systems, Monsanto lab geeks, and GPS-enabled combines did that."

In short, government regulation and redistribution won't help people "stop being poor." Innovation, education, entrepreneurship, creativity—the stuff that government can only encourage, but never mandate—is what the poor need to improve their lot in life.

JOEL MATHIS

Conservatives are so thoroughly terrified that government might do something, anything, that they rarely consider the problems on their own merits. Take my friend Ben. Ask him if it's possible to "stop being poor" and he delivers a tirade against food stamps.

Which is too bad, because there might be conservative, market-driven solutions to the growing—unavoidable—problem

of inequality in this country. But conservatives would have to acknowledge the problem, and that might open the possibility of some bureaucrat or congressman or president somewhere doing something to fix it. Can't have that.

One does not simply "stop being poor," and to suggest otherwise is facile—a slogan for those born on third base thinking they hit a triple. It takes a combination of hard work, resources and opportunity. We've got plenty of the first in this country, but the latter two elements are in diminishing supply.

The Associated Press reported this week that middle-class occupations in this country have slowly been disappearing since the recession of 1991, leaving more people stuck in and scrapping for bottom-tier jobs at Walmart and McDonald's. Many would like to "stop being poor" and climb that ladder—but the rungs have gone missing.

Instead, AP reports, "inflation-adjusted income has declined 9 percent for the bottom 40 percent of households since 2007, even as incomes for the top 5 percent now slightly exceed where they were when the recession began late that year, according to the Census Bureau."

That's a long-term, systemic problem that won't be solved with slogans or sermons. Unless we want to settle into a new Gilded Age economy, something needs to be done.

Food stamps didn't make food cheap, Ben notes. But government did. Public universities created much of the research Monsanto uses to help crops proliferate; farm subsidies made meat and milk cheaper than they ever were for previous generations. Government might or might not be the solution in this present crisis. The command to "stop being poor" surely isn't.

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. Joel Mathis is associate editor for Philadelphia Magazine.

Obamacare strangled by political maneuvers

Dallas Morning News editorial

Nancy Pelosi was the speaker of the House in March 2010, when Democrats achieved a long-sought goal of overhauling our health care system and moving us closer to universal coverage.

One has to wonder today whether the Affordable Care Act—also known as Obamacare—bears even a passing resemblance to the massive bill President Barack Obama signed into law, to the extent any Democrat actually reads those thousands of pages.

Since early 2013, the Obama administration has unilaterally issued change after delay after change to his signature domestic achievement. The bill was intended to substantively remake the U.S. health care system; have dozens of adjustments remake the law as dramatically?

Surely this is not what Pelosi meant when she famously (or infamously) said, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

What's clear is that this dizzying series of delays and changes has wrought con-

fusion, with its most harrowing deadline dead ahead. On March 31, the tax penalty for failing to purchase health insurance—the individual mandate—kicks in. Yet insurance companies and potential new customers are befuddled by rapid shifts in what the law now demands.

The relentless push-back of other deadlines to points conveniently beyond one election or another leads to justified suspicion that politics have long since overridden policy. As it has from the start, Obamacare pols as an albatross to Democrats.

The law's horrific rollout, stunningly obvious last fall, could well cause Democrats to lose their Senate majority—in the same way passing the law cost Pelosi the House majority and her speakership in November 2010.

And while few would profess to separate health care from its politics, few pretend anymore that Obamacare's executive changes are anything other than political cover for Democrats.

The most recent delays were the most blatant, as the administration pushed back for two years the deadline to buy policies

that comport with beefed-up Obamacare requirements. So you can keep your old, substantial plan until the 2016 elections are behind us.

For the record, we appreciate many goals of Obamacare but opposed it overall because of concerns about its funding. Still, like many Americans, we recognize the good that could come from the law and have urged patience and cooperation.

If that were the goal, congressional Republicans would drop their all-or-nothing approach, which translates to repeal-replace-or die-trying. Democrats could stop making believe all is well and refusing to open the door to fix-it negotiations, lest the GOP's most extreme set the place on fire.

Must it be this way? Unfortunately, in our polarized, partisan, money-driven system trying to battle its way out of the minority, while the other is determined to hold power. This tension, as you may have noticed, often fails to yield the most forward-looking outcomes for the governed.

One day, we must hope, the governed will hold both sides' zero-sum games responsible.

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OPINION

Two very different answers to the question 'Were wars in Afghanistan and Iraq worth it?'

Yes: Even though exits reminiscent of Vietnam

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO

FORMER secretary of state, national security adviser and Nobel Peace Prize winner Henry Kissinger is, by all measures, a foreign policy heavyweight. At a recent black-tie dinner, he stood — stoop-shouldered and peering imperiously over his signature thick, black-frame glasses — and remarked: “Unilateral withdrawal is not victory.”

Whom could he have been talking about?

Kissinger knows a thing or two about the pain of walking away. After negotiating the Paris Peace Treaty to end the Vietnam War, he saw President Richard Nixon resign in disgrace over Watergate, then watched Congress pull the plug on all support for South Vietnam.

America's 25-year effort was squandered. With Soviet backing, the North Vietnamese rolled over the South. Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were washed in a bloodbath of oppression and genocide. Emboldened, the Soviet Union bankrolled new revolutions in South America and Africa and fostered a wave of transnational Islamist terrorism in the Middle East.

Though many Vietnam War protesters, including current Secretary of State John Kerry, trumpet America's withdrawal as a triumph, there is no reason to be proud of how we left. While we can still debate the wisdom of going to war there, there is no doubt that our total abandonment of our allies left a bloody and shameful legacy.

Kissinger's comments weren't meant to recall recent history. He was lamenting history repeating itself. The prospects are now high that Afghanistan will fail, needlessly.

The Obama administration's Afghan strategy is a virtual carbon copy of its withdrawal from Iraq. It assumes that once the imminent threat of the collapse of the regime has passed, it's OK to head for the exit. But absence of imminent failure is a poor criterion for declaring victory — no better than George W. Bush's unfortunate high-five under the “Mission Accomplished” banner after the initial invasion of Iraq.

That's not to say that the United States should plan major, unending commitments to a country after a fight. But once the levels of violence have come down, some further commitment is usually necessary to help peace and

stability become “the new normal” and let good governance take root.

Iraq is a case study in how to get it wrong. It is fatuous to argue that the White House could not have gotten permission to retain a residual force there. It simply didn't want to. It is also clear that the U.S. pull-out left a vacuum that was eagerly filled by a resurgent al-Qaida. Today, Iraq suffers much higher levels of violence than when Barack Obama took office.

The prospects for Afghanistan are even grimmer. Obama's Afghan surge was not nearly as massive and effective as the Bush “surge” in Iraq. The Taliban still have sanctuaries in Pakistan; the Haqqani Network is as robust as ever and al-Qaida is waiting in the wings. The narco-trade that fuels the insurgency remains robust as well. These are daunting challenges for the Afghan people.

While Obama talks of finishing the job in Afghanistan, many in the administration would be delighted to go with the “zero option” — no U.S. troops, period. But it's not clear that a small multinational presence will be enough to hold the hard-won gains there.

The U.S. went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan to eradicate the terrorist forces that had killed thousands of Americans and threatened to kill many, many more. Job One was not to bring freedom and justice to those lands, but America always prefers to leave a path to liberty and prosperity in the wake of its war.

Sadly in the case of Afghanistan, Obama seems once again poised to pluck defeat from the jaws of victory, as he did in Iraq. Future administrations will reap the blowback and have to deal with it — probably at greater cost. “Unilateral withdrawal is not victory.”

James Jay Carafano is vice president for foreign and defense policy studies at The Heritage Foundation.

No: When tribal factions dominate, mission fails

By JOHN B. QUIGLEY

OUR withdrawals from Iraq, and now imminently from Afghanistan, are not the reason that we find ourselves dealing with governments in both these countries that are not doing as we think they should.

We are learning the hard lesson that while our military can remove an existing government, we cannot dictate what will replace it. It is a lesson with huge immediate implications, because in recent days we are hearing new rumblings about a possible military intervention in Syria.

In Iraq, President George W. Bush apparently gave little thought to what might replace the government of then-leader Saddam Hussein.

In 1991, when his father, President George H.W. Bush, attacked Iraq over its occupation of Kuwait, he was urged by some in Congress to expand the operation to attack the capital city, Baghdad, and remove Saddam from power.

Wisely, he knew that such action would open a can of worms. Under Saddam, power rested in the hands of the Sunni community, a minority within Iraq. The majority Shiite community was resentful over its treatment at the hands of Saddam. Removal of Saddam would upset the existing order.

What was not difficult to see in Iraq was the likelihood that any new government in Iraq would be dominated by the majority Shiite community, and that it might redress its grievances in a way that would leave the country in turmoil.

So when we see current Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki tilting toward the Shiites, that is the result of the dynamic we set up with our invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The Sunni in Iraq are reacting now with

violence. Whether we are there with troops or not, that dynamic is playing itself out. Iraq experiences inter-communal violence on a daily basis.

Nor was it difficult to guess that a Shiite-led government in Iraq would be on good terms with the government of Iran, with which we are perennially at odds. So by invading Iraq, we were bolstering support in the region for the government of Iran.

In Afghanistan, we removed a government headed by the Taliban. Afghanistan, as was known at the time, houses a variety of ethnic constituencies. It has no history of a country-wide political order.

Now the warlords who ruled small fiefdoms in Afghanistan are making a comeback. One of them may wind up as the next president in elections to be held soon. We are having trouble convincing Hamid Karzai, the current president, to let our troops remain in some numbers past the end of 2014. We want to keep Afghan troops from having jurisdiction over any offenses that may be committed in the future by U.S. personnel there. Karzai rejects this demand.

In both instances, our initiation of military operations — Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2003 — could have been avoided. In Afghanistan, our demand on the Taliban — that they turn over Osama bin Laden and his associates — was not pursued. The Taliban were beginning to respond to our demand, but instead we invaded.

In Iraq, there was even less reason to send our troops. We invaded because, we said, Iraq was preparing mass-destruction weapons to use to attack us. That reason was quickly shown to be implausible.

So in both Afghanistan and Iraq, we took military action that could have been avoided but which had predictable consequences that were negative both for the target country and for ourselves.

And this does not include the thousands killed, maimed, or otherwise wounded among our own forces and among the populations of those countries.

Now we have to live with the political reality in both Iraq and in Afghanistan. We are leaving both countries in shambles. If we don't like the governments we see, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

John B. Quigley is a professor of law at The Ohio State University.

President Obama's Afghan strategy is a virtual carbon copy of his withdrawal from Iraq. It assumes that once the imminent threat of the collapse of the regime has passed, it's OK to head for the exit.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

People are seen through the broken windows of a car destroyed a bomb in Baghdad's Qahira neighborhood Sunday. Iraq has seen a spike in violence since last April, with the death toll climbing to its highest levels since the worst of the country's sectarian bloodletting from 2006 to 2008.

In both Afghanistan and Iraq, we took military action that could have been avoided but which had predictable consequences that were negative both for the target country and for ourselves.

SCOREBOARD

Sports
on AFN

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Tennis

BNP Paribas Open

Thursday
At the Indian Wells Tennis Garden
Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: **\$6.17 million (Masters 1000)**
Women: **\$5.55 million (Premier)**
Surface: **Hard-Outdoor**
Singles

Men
Quarterfinals
Alexander Dolgopolov (28), Ukraine,
Milos Ranic (10), Canada, 6-4, 6-4;
Roger Federer (7), Switzerland, def.
Kevin Anderson (17), South Africa, 7-5,
1-1.

Women
Quarterfinals
Li Na (1), China, def. Dominika Cibulkova (12), Slovakia, 6-3, 4-6, 8-3;
Flavia Pennetta (20), Italy, def. Sloane Stephens (17), United States, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Doubles
Semifinals
Bob and Mike Bryan (13), United States,
def. John and Jesse Conner, United States
6-7 (4), 6-1, 10-7.

Singles
Cara Black, Zimbabwe, and Sania Mirza
(5), India, def. Lucie Hradecka, Czech
Republic, and Zheng Jie (4), China, 6-4,
3-0, 10-7.

College hockey

Thursday's scores

MIDWEST
Nebraska, Omaha 4, Denver 3

Boxing

Fight schedule

March 17
At The House of Blues, Boston, Julian Williams vs. Fred Hernandez 10, mid-
night.

March 21
At Villa La Mesa Sporting Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Juan Carlos Revoco vs. Manuel Vides, 12, to Revoco's WBA World flyweight title.

At Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, Cabazon, Calif., James Martinsson vs. Luciano Cuervo, 10, super welterweights.

March 22
At Roberto Duran Arena, Panama City, Panama, Anselmo Moreno vs. Javier Castillo, 12, for Hernandez's IBF cruiserweight title.

At Tokyo, Denkaosha Kaiochits vs. Kohji Kono, 12, for the vacant WBA super flyweight title.

March 28
At 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, New Town, S.D., "Boxing" lightweight tournament semifinals: Chris Pett vs. Petr Petrov; Miguel Gonzalez vs. Fernando Carmo (8 rounds).

March 29
At Berlin, Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Daniel Hernandez, 12, for Hernandez's IBF cruiserweight title.

At Newcastle, England, Stuart Hall vs. Martin Ward, 12, for Hall's IBF bantamweight title.

At the Ballroom, Broadwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J., Sergey Kovalev vs. Cencir Aliev, 12, for Kovalev's WBC light heavyweight title; Thomas Dulake vs. Karim Mayfield, 10, for the vacant WBA junior welterweight title; Lionel Thompson vs. Medjovjevic, 10, cruiserweights.

April 4
At Lacouras Center, Philadelphia, Amir Mansoor vs. Steve Cunningham, 10, for the USA heavyweight title.

April 5
At Stadthallen, Mordern, Germany, Juergen Braehmer vs. Enzo Maccherini, 12, for the Middleweight WBA World light heavyweight title.

April 6
At Tokyo, Akira Yaguchi vs. Odion Zaleta, 12, for Yaguchi's WBC flyweight title; Brian Hernandez vs. Naoya Uchida, 12, for Hernandez's WBC junior flyweight title.

April 12
At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Timothy Bradley vs. Manny Pacquiao, 12, for Bradley's WBO welterweight title; Bryan Vasquez vs. Jose Felix, 12, for the vacant senior WBA World super featherweight title.

April 19
At Moscow, Russia, Denis Lebeyev vs. Guillermo Jones, 12, for Lebeyev's WBA World cruiserweight title.

At Manchester, England, Scott Quigg vs. Nehomar Cerneno, 12, for Quigg's WBA junior featherweight title.

College basketball

Thursday's men's scores

TOURNAMENTS
American Athletic Conference
Quarterfinals
Cincinnati 61, UC 58
Houston 68, SMU 64
Louisville 92, Rutgers 31
UConn 72, Memphis 53
Atlantic 10 Conference
Second Round
Clemson 69, Georgia Tech 65, OT
Dayton 87, Fordham 74
Richmond 76, Duquesne 64
St. Bonaventure 82, Seton Hall 72
South 65, Rhode Island 61
Atlantic Coast Conference
Second Round
Florida State 71, Maryland 65
NC State 67, Miami 58
Pittsburgh 84, Wake Forest 55

Big 12 Conference
Quarterfinals
Baylor 78, Oklahoma 73
Iowa St. 91, Kansas St. 85
Kansas 77, Oklahoma St. 70, OT
Texas 66, West Virginia 49

Big East Conference
Quarterfinals
Creighton 84, DePaul 62
From 80, Georgetown 64
Seton Hall 64, Villanova 63
Xavier 69, Marquette 63

Big Sky Conference
First Round
N. Colorado 62, N. Arizona 60
North Dakota 79, Sacramento St. 76
Portland 62, Montana 43

Big Ten Conference
First Round
Illinois 64, Indiana 55
Cincinnati 63, Penn St. 56
Northwestern 67, Iowa 58
Ohio St. 63, Purdue 61

Big West Conference
First Round
SC Northridge 67, Hawaii 44, OT
Cal Poly 69, UC Santa Barbara 38
Long Beach St. 66, Cal St.-Fullerton 56
UC Irvine 63, UC Riverside 43

Conference USA
Louisiana Tech 68, Charlotte 65
Middle Tennessee 62, Old Dominion 48

Southern Miss. 64, UTEP 56
Tulsa 70, Tulane 49

Mid-American Athletic Conference
Quarterfinals
Michigan 69, Buffalo 64
Morgan St. 51, Florida A&M 68
Norfolk St. 57, Savannah St. 47

Mountain West Conference
Quarterfinals
New Mexico 83, Fresno St. 77
San Diego St. 73, Utah St. 39
UNLV 71, Wyoming 61

Pacific-12 Conference
First Round
Arizona 71, Utah 39
USC 49, California 56
UCLA 89, Arizona St. 58
UCI 82, Oregon 63

Southeastern Conference
LSU 68, Florida 52
Mississippi 78, Mississippi St. 66
Missouri 91, Texas A&M 83, 2OT
South Carolina 71, Arkansas 67

Southland Conference
Northwestern St. 88, Nicholls St. 72
Oklahoma St. 70, Oral Roberts 61
Southwestern Athletic Conference

Quarterfinals
Alabama 64, Ark.-Pine Bluff 50
Alabama St. 64, Alcorn St. 51
Sun Belt Conference

First Round
Texas-Arlington 68, Louisiana-Monroe 65
UALR 74, Troy 61

Western Athletic Conference
Boise State 68, Colorado St. 62
Idaho 73, UMKC 70
New Mexico 68, Seattle 68
Utah Valley 83, Texas-Pan American 63

Thursday's women's scores
TOURNAMENTS
Big 12 Conference
First Round
Idaho St. 70, E. Washington 65, OT
Montana St. 75, Montana St. 66
Utah St. 86, Sacramento St. 78
South Atlantic Association

First Round
UNC Wilmington 67, William & Mary 65

Conference USA
FIU 69, Tulane 55
Middle Tennessee 69, UAB 59
UTEP 81, Louisiana Tech 72

Mid-American Conference
Akron 83, Toledo 69
Ball State 75, Miami 66
Western Michigan 69, UAB 59

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Coppin St. 62, Md.-Eastern Shore 60
Savannah St. 74, Florida A&M 75
Missouri Valley Conference

First Round
Louisiana Tech 69, Illinois 39
Missouri St. 61, Illinois 39

Southeastern Conference
First Round
McNeese St. 76, Texas A&M-C&T 73
Nicholls St. 71, Oral Roberts 66

Southwestern Athletic Conference
Quarterfinals
Jackson St. 74, MSU 68
Prairie View 71, Alabama St. 61

Pro baseball

Spring training

AMERICAN LEAGUE
W L Pct
Cleveland 13 4 765
Seattle 8 3 727
Tampa Bay 8 3 743
New York 8 3 743
Boston 8 3 743
Oakland 8 3 743
Los Angeles 8 3 743
Detroit 7 7 500
Kansas City 7 7 500
Boston 7 7 500
Toronto 6 8 429
Chicago 5 9 417
Minnesota 5 9 417
Texas 5 9 417

NATIONAL LEAGUE
W L Pct
St. Louis 4 6 667
San Francisco 5 5 643
Chicago Cubs 5 5 643
Arizona 4 6 571
Colorado 8 9 472
New York 8 9 461
Arizona 8 9 461
Chicago 6 8 429
Philadelphia 6 8 429
San Diego 5 8 385
Los Angeles 5 8 385
Cincinnati 4 10 264
St. Louis 4 10 264

Split: Split games count in the standings, but not in non-major league teams do not.

Thursday's games
Boston 4, Minnesota 3
Tampa Bay 4, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 1, Atlanta 0
St. Louis 7, Washington 5
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Yankees 5 (2)

Friday's games
Baltimore vs. Minnesota (at) at Port Myers, Fla.
Philadelphia vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
Minnesota (ss) vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.
Boston vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.

Saturday's games
Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
St. Louis vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
L.A. Angels vs. Boston at Peoria, Ariz.
Oakland vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
Colorado (ss) vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.

Sunday's games
Cleveland vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla.
Miami vs. N.Y. Yankees at Panama City, Fla.
Cleveland vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.
Kansas City vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Oakland vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.

Monday's games
Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
N.Y. Mets vs. Chicago Cubs at Las Vegas, Nev.
Seattle vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
Colorado vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.
Cleveland vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
Milwaukee vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tuesday's games
Detroit vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla.
Miami vs. N.Y. Yankees at Panama City, Fla.
Cleveland vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.
Kansas City vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.

Wednesday's games
Oakland vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
N.Y. Mets vs. Chicago Cubs at Las Vegas, Nev.
Seattle vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
Colorado vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.
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Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON RED SOX—Signed RHPs Anthony Ranaudo and Alex Wilson, INF Garin Cecchini and OFs Bryce Brentz and Adam Lind to Pawtucket. **Reds**—Signed RHP Matt Barnes, Miguel Cotto and Travis O'Connell. **Angels**—Signed C Blake Whitham and INFs Heiker Meneses and Travis O'Connell.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Options RHP Brian Mitchell to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL) and OFs Clint Kershaw to Tampa Bay.

L.A. PAYS BAYS—Options LHPs Jeff Bevelau and C.J. Rieferhausen, RHPs Nathan Karns and Kirby Yates, INFs Vince Beltrone and Hak-Ju Lee and OF Kevin Kiermaier to Durham (IL). Returned OF Mike Mottout to the Yankees.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Assigned RHP Raul Fernandez, INF Rosell Herrera and LHPs Jayson Aguilar, Tyler Matzek and Craig Stinson to minor league camp.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Options RHP Eric Fontenot, C Audry Perez and OF Oscar Taveras to Memphis (PCL).

ST. FRANCISCO GIANTS—Named Jeff Leonard community ambassador.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Options Of Michael Taylor and LHP Matt Purke to Harrisburg (EL). Reassigned RHPs Clayton Kershaw and OFs Ryan Zimmerman and LHP Danny Rosenbaum to minors.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NBA—Fined Washington G John Wall \$15,000 for violating inappropriate comments toward a fan after Wednesday's game.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed WR Ted Ginn Jr. to a three-year contract. Agreed to terms with LB Matt Shaughnessy on a one-year contract.

MOBILE
MOBILE BILLS—Agreed to terms with ST Scott Chandler.

CLEVELAND BENGALS—Released WR Steve Smith.

CHICAGO BEARS—Agreed to terms with DE Willie Young on a three-year contract and WR Domenikixon on a one-year contract.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Released LB James Harrison.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed TE Jim Drew.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed LB Will Herring.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Signed DE Darryl Tapp to a one-year contract.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB DE Mike Neal and TE Andrew Quarless.

HOUSTON TEXANS—Signed TE Derrick Green.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Agreed to terms with DE Chris Chatham and Zigmund Hodge.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed CB Captain Munnerlyn.

NEW JERSEY SAINTS—Traded RB Darren Sproles to Philadelphia for a 2014 fifth-round draft pick.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed DE Justin Tucker to a two-year contract and LB Lamar Woodley.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Agreed to terms with RB Nolan Carroll on a two-year contract.

ST. LOUIS RAMS—Re-signed OL Rodger Connor, LB Reggie Walker and CB Brandon Chubb.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Signed QB Jonathan Martin from Miami for an undisclosed draft pick.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Signed QB James McNair from the Colts on a multiyear contract.

TENNESSEE REDSKINS—Signed DE Clifton Geathers.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled C John Sturges from AHL due to injury during emergency conditions.

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Activated F Vladimir Tarasenko from AHL.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Re-signed D Mike Green to a two-year contract.

SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma St. 15, Abilene Christian 7

SPORTS BRIEFS/TRACK & FIELD



Mikaela Schiffrin, of the United States, and France's Alexis Pinturault, winners of the best under-23 award, celebrate on the podium at the World Cup finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, on Friday.

Briefly

Fenninger wins overall Alpine World Cup title

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — On a great day for ski-crazy Austria, Anna Fenninger won her first overall Alpine World Cup title and Marcel Hirscher took a huge step toward his third.

Fenninger's breakout success was expected on Thursday, though Hirscher surprised himself on super-G day at the World Cup Finals by beating the master of the discipline, Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway.

Austria can complete its first title double since 2002 when the season-ending slalom and giant slalom — Hirscher's strongest events — are raced this weekend.

That leaves the nation time to savor Fenninger's success, after her second-place finish behind super-G winner Lara Gut built an unassailable points lead over her Swiss friend.

"It's just, wow," said Fenninger, the first Austrian woman to win the overall title since Nicole Hosp in 2007. "It means that you are the best skier in the world over the whole season."

Former Fiesta Bowl chief sentenced in scheme

PHOENIX — A former Fiesta Bowl chief executive has been

sentenced to 8 months in federal prison after acknowledging that he participated in an illegal campaign contribution scheme.

John Junker was sentenced Thursday after pleading guilty two years ago to a conspiracy charge in the scheme in which bowl employees made illegal campaign contributions to politicians and were reimbursed by the nonprofit bowl. The scandal exposed the lavish spending and perks that the Fiesta Bowl heaped on lawmakers and employees — though no charges were filed involving those perks.

Among other things, Junker received cars, country club memberships and \$1,200 for a trip to a strip club.

Hockey player killed self by asphyxiation

SAGINAW, Mich. — Police say that 20-year-old Saginaw Spirit minor league hockey player Terry Trafford died of self-inflicted asphyxiation inside his car parked outside a Wal-Mart store.

State police Lt. Brian Cole tells The Saginaw News that the autopsy was completed Thursday and says toxicology results will come later. Cole says the asphyxiation "appears to be self-inflicted."

The newspaper doesn't say how the asphyxiation happened.

Kenseth to use standby drivers at California

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Matt Kenseth has a contingency plan for next week's race at California as he awaits the birth of his third child.

Sam Hornish Jr. will be on standby for the Nationwide Series race at Auto Club Speedway, and Jeff Burton will be in place in case Kenseth needs a replacement driver for the Sprint Cup race.

Kenseth does not have standby drivers for this weekend at Bristol, where he's scheduled to run both the Nationwide and Cup races.

Hawks' Horford won't return this season

ATLANTA — Al Horford won't try and return for the playoffs if the Atlanta Hawks make the postseason.

The Hawks center tore his right pectoral muscle on Dec. 26 and hasn't played since. He tore the left one in the 2011 and returned to play later that season.

The Hawks have dropped six of their past seven games and 14 of 16 to fall into the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta was 16-13 with their star and 11-22 without him.

Prosecutors refocus attention on killing in Pistorius trial

By Christopher Torchia
And Gerald Imray
The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — Displaying photographs of a bare-chested Oscar Pistorius standing in his garage on bloodied prosthetic legs and wearing shorts soaked in his girlfriend's blood, prosecutors attempted Friday to focus attention on the killing for which the double-amputee Olympian is on trial for murder, while the defense poked holes in the police investigation that followed it.

The photos were taken in Pistorius' Pretoria home by police soon after he shot Reeva Steenkamp before dawn on Feb. 14, 2013.

Pistorius was seen from the front in the first photo shown in court, his muscled athlete's chest clean of blood while he stood on limbs stained up to the knees. A second image put up on television monitors in the courtroom was taken from Pistorius' left, showing a smear of blood not far from a tattoo of a biblical verse on his back.

He had shot his girlfriend about an hour earlier.

Pistorius was a celebrated track runner who rose from the hardship of having his legs amputated as a baby to compete at the London Olympics. He now faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder.

The prosecution says Pistorius, 27, killed Steenkamp, 29, intentionally after a loud fight. The athlete maintains he shot her with his licensed 9 mm pistol by mistake, thinking she was an intruder in his bathroom.

While prosecutors have recreated the bloody crime scene and Pistorius' physical condition through a sequence of photographs over two days in court, Pistorius' chief defense lawyer, Barry Roux, embarked on a minute examination of what he contends is major police bungling in the hours, days and even months after the shooting.

Roux said that officers moved

evidence and disturbed the scene at the home, and failed to wear proper forensic clothing while picking through it. Police concede they kept the most crucial object — the wooden toilet cubicle door through which Pistorius shot Steenkamp — in a body bag in an office and that some of the fragments of wood disappeared.

Defense experts said they have also found key marks in the door that were not identified by police.

A former police colonel, one of the first on the scene, also testified Friday that he had to have police forensic experts frisked and their bags and cars searched after one of a collection of nine expensive watches in Pistorius' bedroom disappeared. G.S. van Rensburg said he opened a case of theft.

Roux's early questions Friday reflected one of the key arguments in Pistorius' defense — that police tampered with the scene and contaminated the evidence.

"Were you acutely aware that you should not disturb the scene? Did you have that awareness?" Roux asked van Rensburg, who said he arrived just before 4 a.m., about 30 to 40 minutes after prosecutors say Pistorius shot Steenkamp.

The prosecution also posed questions, however, through its collection of photos from the inside of Pistorius' house. The photos showed blood stains and smatter on walls, floors and furniture, both upstairs and downstairs, where Pistorius says he carried Steenkamp to get help. They also revealed dents in the bedroom door, broken tiles in the bathroom and a metal panel on the wall that had been bashed in.

And for the first time, prosecutors offered a glimpse of the tiny toilet cubicle where Steenkamp was shot, displaying a close-up photograph of the toilet and an extensive blood smear on the rim, as well as thick blood streaks in the bowl, where the water was dark with blood.



Kim Ludbrook/AP

Oscar Pistorius leans back after applying eye drops in court in Pretoria, South Africa, on Friday. Pistorius' chief defense lawyer, Barry Roux, charged that police bungled the shooting death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, on Valentine's Day last year.

NHL



JAY LAPRETE/AP

San Jose's Joe Pavelski, right, scores a goal against Columbus' Sergei Bobrovsky during a shootout in Thursday's game in Columbus, Ohio. Pavelski's goal turned out to be the game winner.

Roundup

Pavelski's shootout goal lifts Sharks over Jackets

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The talk in the San Jose locker room was about the save at the end of regulation that got them one point. Backup goalie Alex Stalock followed that by improving to 3-0 in shutouts in his career and not allowing a goal in 10 attempts to help get the other point.

On the offensive side, Patrick Marleau scored twice and Joe Pavelski had the lone shootout goal in the Sharks' 4-3 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night.

"Huge save with 3 or 4 seconds left," San Jose coach Todd McLellan said. "I thought he was very solid."

Stalock finished with 35 saves — including 15 in the second period — and the one getting all the raves was a spectacular post-to-post stop on Jack Johnson late and Columbus on the power play.

"It was a puck you have to play and get over," Stalock said. "My job was to recover and get over there."

After tying his career high of 66 points with an assist on Marleau's second goal, Pavelski deked Sergei Bobrovsky and roofed a backhand in the shootout to give San Jose its fourth straight win. Marleau scored his 27th and 28th goals and Matt Nieto also scored for the Sharks, who are 8-1 in their last 10 to move into a tie with Anaheim for the Pacific Division lead. Logan Couture had two assists.

"It feels good to be right up there," Marleau said. "It's not going to be easy the rest of the season."

Ryan Johansen, R. J. Umberger and James Wisniewski scored for the Blue Jackets, who wanted more but will gladly take the point in the congested race for an Eastern Conference playoff spot. Brandon Dubinsky added two assists for Columbus, 17-7-2 since Jan. 1.

Blues 6, Oilers 2: Alex Pietrangolo started a four-goal third period and Jaden Schwartz scored twice to help NHL-leading St. Louis beat visiting Edmonton.

The Oilers lost for the second time in five games. Pietrangolo, Schwartz and T.J. Oshie scored in a

7:14 span at the outset of the third period to break a 2-2 tie, and Schwartz added his second goal of the period at 12:56.

Maple Leafs 3, Kings 2: Mason Raymond broke a tie with a short-handed goal early in the third period as visiting Toronto ended Los Angeles' eight-game winning streak.

James Reimer made 31 saves in the final two periods after replacing the injured Jonathan Bernier for the Leafs, who have won four of five. Captain Dion Phaneuf and Carl Gunnarsson also scored as Toronto beat both Southern California NHL clubs in a four-day span.

Brins 2, Coyotes 1: Tuukka Rask made 21 saves and host Boston took the top spot in the NHL's Eastern Conference, beating Phoenix for its seventh consecutive victory.

Zdeno Chara and Jarome Iginla scored for Boston. The Bruins have 93 points, one more than Pittsburgh.

Lauri Korpikoski scored for Phoenix with 12 minutes left in the game to split Rask's shutout.

Wild 2, Rangers 1: Zach Parise scored the game-winner early in the third period and Darcy Kuemper stopped 29 shots to break the Minnesota rookie victory record in a win over visiting New York.

After Jason Pominville had several whacks at the puck from in close, Parise stuffed it past Rangers backup goalie Cam Talbot 1:03 into the third.

Lightning 5, Panthers 4: Steven Stamkos scored his first goal since returning from a major injury and Ryan Callahan had his first goal with his new team as host Tampa Bay beat Florida.

Stamkos gave Tampa Bay a 5-2 lead on a power play at 10:47 of the third. Playing his fourth game since missing 45 games after breaking his right shin, Stamkos also had an assist after three pointless games.

Hurricanes 4, Sabres 2: Alexander Semin and Jiri Tlustý scored in a 1:55 span in the third period to give host Carolina the lead in its victory over Buffalo.

Semin tied it at 2-2 on a power play with 8:12 left, and Tlustý scored with 6:17 to go.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	66	44	17	5	93	210	145
Toronto	68	36	24	8	80	201	207
Tampa Bay	66	35	24	7	77	191	175
Montreal	67	35	25	7	77	167	170
Detroit	65	29	23	13	71	172	183
Ottawa	65	28	25	12	68	185	213
Florida	66	24	35	7	55	161	214

Metropolitan Division					
burgh	65	44	17	4	92
bus	66	34	26	6	74
ngers	67	35	28	4	74
elphia	65	33	25	7	73
ersey	66	29	24	13	71
ngton	67	30	27	10	70
na	66	29	28	9	67
anders	67	25	33	9	59

Western Conference

	Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	66	45	14	7	97	219	150	
Colorado	66	43	18	5	91	202	174	
Chicago	66	38	14	14	90	225	175	
Minnesota	66	35	22	9	79	163	162	
Dallas	65	32	23	10	74	188	181	
Winnipeg	67	30	28	9	69	184	195	
Nashville	66	28	28	10	66	160	195	

Pacific Division					
Anaheim	66	43	16	7	93 210 167
San Jose	67	43	17	7	93 209 162
Los Angeles	67	38	23	6	82 164 142
Phoenix	67	31	25	11	73 185 191
Vancouver	68	30	28	10	70 160 183
Calgary	66	26	33	7	59 155 196
Edmonton	67	23	36	8	54 168 221
Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.					

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

San Jose 4, Columbus 3, 5:30
Boston 2, Phoenix 1
Carolina 3, Buffalo 2
Tampa Bay 5, Florida 4
St. Louis 6, Edmonton 2
Minnesota 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Toronto 3, Los Angeles 2

Friday's games
San Jose 4, N.Y. Islanders
Vancouver at Washington
Edmonton at Detroit
New Jersey at Florida
Nashville at Chicago
N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg
Calgary at Dallas
Anaheim at Colorado

Saturday's games
Carolina at Boston
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Ottawa at Montreal
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders
St. Louis at Nashville
Columbus at Minnesota
Calgary at Phoenix
Anaheim at Los Angeles

Sunday's games
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Vancouver at Florida
Toronto at Washington
Edmonton at Carolina
San Jose at N.Y. Rangers
Colorado at Ottawa
Montreal at Buffalo
Detroit at Chicago
Dallas at Winnipeg

Thursday

Bruins 2, Coyotes 1

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Phoenix	0	0	1	2
Boston	2	0	0	2
First Period	1	Boston, Chab 16:54		
Second Period	1	Boston, Iginla 21 (Boychuk, Lucic), 27:31		

Third Period—3. Phoenix, Korpikoski 9 (Eaton, Stalock, Sloan), 38:12.
Shots on goal—Boston 8-2-12-22.
Shots on goal—Phoenix 0-0-0-0.
Power play opportunities—Phoenix 0 of 5; Boston 0 of 1.
Goalies—Boston, M.Smith 24-20-10 (20 shots-18 saves). Phoenix, Rask 30-14-4 (23).

A-17,565 (17,565). T-2:16.

Hurricanes 4, Sabres 2

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Buffalo	1	0	2	4
Carolina	1	0	3	2
First Period	1	Buffalo, Einarsson 10:47 (altly shot), 10:22.		
Second Period	1	Carolina, Skinner 26 (Rumphy, Lindholm), 13:20.		
Third Period	2	Carolina, Stafford 13 (Conacher, Weber), 8:43.		
Goalies—Carolina, Staal 11-6-5 (5 shots-4 saves). Sabres, Parise 23-16-3 (23 shots-16 saves). Hurricanes, Dwyer 23-16-3 (23).				

Shots on goal—Carolina 14-12-17-47.
Shots on goal—Sabres 11-11-11-33.
Power play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 2; Carolina 1 of 5.
Goalies—Buffalo, Neuvirth 4-8-2 (54 shots-31 saves). Carolina, Ward 8-10-5 (23-21).

A-13,654 (18,680). T-2:27.

Wild 2, Rangers 1

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	1	2
First Period	1	Wild, Niederreiter 12 (Brodzicki), 13:08.		
Second Period	1	Rangers, Stenmetz 12 (McDonagh, Nash), 3:19 (pp).		
Third Period	3	Minnesota, Parise 23 (Pominville, Granlund), 1:03.		
Goalies—Wild, Johnson 17-6-16 (30 shots-19 saves). Rangers, Talbot 11-6-20 (24 shots-39 saves). Minnesota, Kuemper 24-13-3 (39-29).				

A-18,885 (17,954). T-2:26.



JIM MONK/AP

Minnesota's Zach Parise celebrates a goal Thursday against the New York Rangers in St. Paul, Minn.

Sharks 4, Blues Jackets 3 (SO)

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
San Jose	1	0	2	4
Columbus	1	0	3	2
First Period	1	Columbus, Johansen 25 (Jennner, Foligno), 5:28.		
Second Period	1	San Jose, Marleau 28 (Pavelski, Oshie), 10:53.		
Third Period	2	San Jose, Pietrangolo 18 (Couture, Vlasak), 4:25.		
Goalies—San Jose 11-7-6-1-27. Columbus 9-16-12-3-38.				

Shots on goal—San Jose 11-7-6-1-27.
Shots on goal—Columbus 9-16-12-3-38.
Power play opportunities—San Jose 1 of 3; Columbus 6 of 3.
Goalies—San Jose, Stalock 11-4-1 (38 shots-15 saves). Columbus, Bobrovsky 25-16-4 (27-24).

A-13,851 (18,144). T-2:40.

Lightning 5, Panthers 4

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Florida	2	0	2	4
Tampa Bay	2	0	2	4
First Period	1	Florida, Fleischman 7 (Kulikov, Bjugstad), 1:44 (pp).		
Second Period	1	Tampa Bay, Salo 3 (Filipault), 5:38.		
Third Period	3	Florida, Hooten 11 (Hayes, Pirri), 5:50.		
Goalies—Florida 11-5-7-8 (28 shots-23 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 30-11-16 (27-23).				

Shots on goal—Florida 11-5-7-27.
Shots on goal—Tampa Bay 17-13-8-38.
Power play opportunities—Florida 1 of 2; Tampa Bay 1 of 4.
Goalies—Florida, Ellis 5-7-8 (28 shots-23 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 30-11-16 (27-23).

A-18,324 (19,204). T-2:18.

Blues 6, Oilers 2

GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Edmonton	1	1	0	2
St. Louis	1	1	4	6
First Period	1	Edmonton, Perron 25 (Hull, Ferencik), 7:39.		
Second Period	1	St. Louis, Subotnik 8 (Tarsenko, Oshie), 18:48.		
Third Period	3	St. Louis, Tarsenko 20 (Oshie, Subotnik), 5:08.		
Goalies—Edmonton, Fraser 1 (Gordon, Jonsson), 18:03.				

Shots on goal—Edmonton 11-11-11-33.
Shots on goal—St. Louis, Schwartz 20 (Bachus, Steen), 4:25.
Power play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 2; St. Louis, Schwartz 17 (Lapierre, Pajarij), 11:25.

Shots on goal—Edmonton 11-11-11-33.
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AUTO RACING

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Food City 500 at Bristol, Tenn.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 6 p.m. Sunday, CET.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway

(oval, 0.533 miles).

Race distance: 500 laps, 266.5 miles.

Last year: Kasey Kahne held off Kyle Busch after a bumper-banging battle with Brad Keselowski.

Last week: Keselowski surged ahead on the final lap at Las Vegas when Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran out of fuel. Keselowski also won the Nationwide race for his first weekend sweep.

Next race: Auto Club 400, March 23, Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, Calif.

Fast facts: Earnhardt has finished in the top two of all three races this year.

Online: nascar.com.

— The Associated Press

Driver standings

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	133
2. Brad Keselowski	132
3. Jimmie Johnson	117
4. Joey Logano	116
5. Jeff Gordon	115
6. Carl Edwards	105
7. Matt Kenseth	105
8. Denny Hamlin	101
9. Ryan Newman	97
10. Kyle Busch	95
11. Jamie McMurray	93
12. Greg Biffle	86
13. Austin Dillon	84
14. Kevin Harvick	83
15. Kasey Kahne	83
16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	80
17. Casey Mears	80
18. Paul Menard	76
19. Marcos Ambrose	69
20. Brian Vickers	64

Driver to watch

Matt Kenseth had a strong season in 2013, winning seven times and finishing second in the Chase to six-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson.

He opened the 2014 season with two top-10 finishes in his first three races, taking sixth in the season-opening Daytona 500 and 10th in last week's Kobalt 400 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. He also had a 12th-place finish in the Profit on CNBC 500 at Phoenix International Raceway.

Kenseth should be comfortable on this week's track in Bristol, having won there in August in the Irwin Tools Night Race.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Drive to Stop Diabetes 300 at Bristol, Tenn.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Saturday, CET.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).

Race distance: 300 laps, 159.9 miles.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the second of his 12 series wins in 2013. He also won the August race at the track for his record sixth Bristol victory.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won at Las Vegas, overcoming electrical trouble and holding off Busch. Keselowski also won the Sprint Cup race.

Fast facts: Busch won the rain-shortened Phoenix race two weeks ago for his series-record 64th victory.

...Regan Smith won the season-opening race at Daytona. ...Cale Conley is attempting to make his first national series start, driving the No. 33 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet.

Online: nascar.com.

— The Associated Press

FORMULA ONE

This week: Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne.

Track: Albert Park (road course, 3.3 miles).

Race distance: 191.12 miles, 58 laps.

Last year: Lotus' Kimi Raikkonen won the season-opening race for his 20th F1 victory. Ferrari's Fernando Alonso was second, and Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel finished third.

Next race: Malaysian Grand Prix, March 30, Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Online: formula1.com.

— The Associated Press

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

Next race: Kroger 250, March 29, Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

Last race: Kyle Busch won at Daytona on Feb. 21 to become the first driver to win Truck, ARCA, Nationwide and Sprint Cup races at the track.

Online: nascar.com.

— The Associated Press

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville, Fla.

TV: AFN-Xtra, Midnight Saturday, CET.

Track: Auto Plus Raceway At Gainesville.

Last year: Antron Brown beat Clay Millican in Top Fuel. Johnny Gray topped the Funny Car field, Allen Johnson won in Pro Stock and Hector Arana Jr. in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Alexis DeJoria raced to her first career Funny Car victory Feb. 23 in Chandler, Ariz. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Allen Johnson topped the Pro Stock field.

Fast facts: On Feb. 9 in the Winter Nationals in Pomona, Calif., 64-year-old John Force beat Matt Hagan in the Funny Car final with a record time of 3.965 seconds at 323.58 mph. Force won his record 16th season title last year and has a record 139 event victories.

Next event: SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals, March 28-30, The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Online: nhra.com.

— The Associated Press

Formula 1 gets a shakeup

Radical redesign of cars signals promise of a new era

By CHRIS LINES

The Associated Press

For jaded Formula One fans weary of Sebastian Vettel's dominance, an overdue shake-up is coming.

A switch to six-cylinder turbo engines has forced a radical redesign of the cars, with the aim of making the series more relevant to the car industry and tempting major automakers back to F1.

While such changes tend to ultimately benefit the big teams, who have more resources to put into design and trouble-shooting, the change could see some of the major players struggle early.

How the teams adjust to the technical challenges will be the major theme of the season, with juicy subplots such as how Fernando Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen manage what could be a combustible relationship as teammates at Ferrari.

Off the track, there are also major issues, most notably the future of the series' commercial boss with 83-year-old Bernie Ecclestone facing bribery charges in Germany. Many eyes are also on Michael Schumacher, who remains in a coma in a French hospital months after he suffered head injuries in a skiing accident.

Preseason testing has raised some eyebrows, with Vettel — who will be aiming for his fifth straight drivers' championship, and his Red Bull team struggling with technical problems, while Felipe Massa at his new team Williams is the unlikely name at the top of the timesheets.

It will be tough to bet against Red Bull and designer Adrian Newey quickly coming up with solutions to the preseason glitches, but Vettel knew the restricted running in preseason put his team at a disadvantage for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

‘We have a strong package, but I don't feel we are guaranteed to be the guys ahead.’

Lewis Hamilton

Team Mercedes

Formula One driver



“We haven't done enough laps, the speed is not there compared to some other teams,” said Vettel, who last season matched Schumacher's record of 13 victories in a year and equaled the nine straight wins of Alberto Ascari. “There's no reason to paint everything black. Everyone is motivated to get out of it, get going and find out where we are.”

If Red Bull is off the pace in Australia and the early races, it will have plenty of opportunities to catch up in the 19-race season. The Russian GP in October is new to the schedule, while the Austrian GP returns in June. The Korean GP has been dropped, while the Indian GP is off this year and might return in 2015.

Red Bull's preseason struggles have been primarily caused by Renault's teething problems with the new V6 engine and associated parts of the power train. That has also impacted the other Renault-supplied teams: Lotus, Toro Rosso and Caterham.

The trouble for Renault is the engines have been set for the season ahead, with no major changes allowed, so there is a fear the problems will be difficult if not impossible to resolve.

The Mercedes-powered teams have flourished in preseason, with the eponymous factory team a clear favorite for the early races to build on the second-place finish in 2013, while Williams and Force India have looked strong, less so McLaren. The Mercedes teams did roughly twice as many laps in preseason testing than the Renault or Ferrari-powered cars.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, who will sport the No. 44 on his car as F1 switches to personally chosen numbers instead of the previous season's finishing order, was playing down his favorite status for Melbourne.

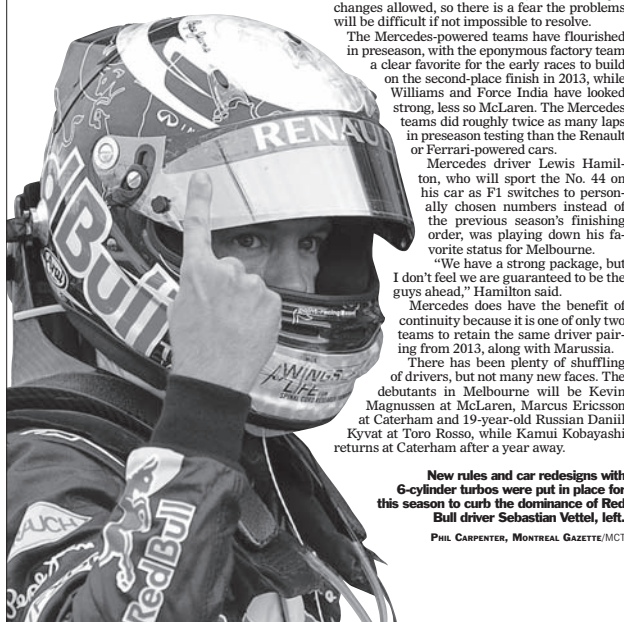
“We have a strong package, but I don't feel we are guaranteed to be the guys ahead,” Hamilton said.

Mercedes does have the benefit of continuity because it is one of only two teams to retain the same driver pairing from 2013, along with Marussia.

There has been plenty of shuffling of drivers, but not many new faces. The debutants in Melbourne will be Kevin Magnussen at McLaren, Marcus Ericsson at Caterham and 19-year-old Russian Daniil Kvyat at Toro Rosso, while Kamui Kobayashi returns at Caterham after a year away.

New rules and car redesigns with 6-cylinder turbos were put in place for this season to curb the dominance of Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel, left.

Phil Carpenter, MONTREAL GAZETTE/MCT



NFL

WR Smith vows he isn't finished

Star promises 'blood and guts' if he has chance to play Carolina

By JOSEPH PERSON
The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Click the roster tab on the Carolina Panthers' website and there's still a Smith listed — D.J. Smith, a third-year linebacker from Appalachian State.

The spot for No. 89 — occupied for 13 years by Steve Smith, considered the best player in team history — is gone.

The Panthers ended three weeks of speculation and fan angst — and more than a decade of great catches, ball spins and in-your-face attitude — by cutting the franchise's all-time receiving leader Thursday.

Smith was not sent off with a news conference like Jake Delhomme received or a retirement ceremony like Jordan Gross enjoyed last month.

The Panthers announced Smith's release in a late-morning email that included a five-paragraph statement from second-year general manager Dave Gettleman, who said cutting him was a decision not taken lightly.

Smith — whose fiery third-round pick in 2001, ranks 25th in league history with 836 catches and 19th all-time with 12,197 receiving yards. He holds more than 30 Panthers records, including all of their major receiving marks.

His production slipped in 2014,

when his 64 catches, 745 receiving yards and 11.6 yards-per-catch average were among the worst in his career.

Smith isn't finished yet, though. Baltimore seems to have the most interest in acquiring him, although New England and Tampa Bay are also possibilities.

Playing for the Bucs would give Smith two chances to face the Panthers each year. If that happens, he told WFNZ-AM, "put your goggles on because there's going to be blood and guts everywhere."

When Gettleman was hired by the Panthers last year, he said he told owner Jerry Richardson he would try to leave the Panthers in a better position than when he came. It was Gettleman who decided it was time to move on from the mercurial Smith.

"Decisions, either popular or unpopular, have to be made for the greater good," Gettleman said in the release. "And it is imperative to take an unemotional global view."

Smith was seldom unemotional. Sources said Gettleman viewed Smith — whose fiery personality was applauded by fans but not always welcome in the locker room — as a distraction, and that he wanted to turn the leadership over to emerging stars such as quarterback Cam Newton and middle linebacker Luke Kuechly.

Smith, who declined to speak



Wide receiver Steve Smith, left, the Panthers' all-time leading receiver, was released by the team on Thursday after 13 seasons.

to the Charlotte Observer, told WFNZ he thanked Richardson for giving him an opportunity. He indicated he wasn't going to let his relationship with Gettleman ruin his feelings for the organization.

"I'm not going to allow an individual that I've interacted with for six months or a year to change the relationships I have with multiple people in that organization for over 13 years," Smith said. "That will never happen."

Smith, who will turn 35 in May, will walk away with \$5 million from the Panthers — \$3 million

in guaranteed money and \$2 million in deferred bonuses.

Because there is no offset language in Smith's contract, he can collect the \$5 million the Panthers owe him, in addition to whatever money another team pays him. Designating Smith as a post-June 1 cut saved the Panthers \$1 million in salary cap space, although they will carry \$4 million in dead money on their salary cap into 2015.

Smith leaves with his name all over the Panthers' record books. He caught more passes, scored

more touchdowns and posted more 100-yard receiving games than anyone in the franchise's 19-year history.

He ends his career with Carolina with every major receiving record. His 12,197 yards are nearly 3,000 in front of Muhsin Muhammad, and his 836 receptions and 67 touchdowns also outdistance Muhammad.

Smith was part of four of the Panthers' five playoff teams and made five Pro Bowls, most recently in 2011 during Newton's first season.

Bengals cut ties with Harrison after one season

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

Darrelle Revis and Darren Sproles found landing spots in the Northeast. Now Steve Smith and James Harrison look for new NFL homes.

Revis' stay in Tampa Bay was short, and he might not be in New England much longer. After less than a year as a Buccaneer, he was cut Wednesday and officially agreed to terms with the Patriots on Thursday — but only on a one-year deal, albeit worth about \$12 million.

The 28-year-old shutdown cornerback whose contract impasse had led him from the Jets to the Bucs to the Patriots since last April, was the latest big name on the move. Versatile running back-kick returner Sproles will add some juice to Philadelphia's already high-energy offense after he was acquired from New Orleans. And someone will grab veteran Smith after the standout wide re-



DAVID KOHL/AP

Outside linebacker James Harrison, the 2008 Defensive Player of the Year, was cut by Cincinnati on Thursday after one season with the Bengals.

ceiver was released by Carolina.

As for Harrison, the 2008 Defensive Player of the Year was cut by Cincinnati, where he spent only the 2013 season after being released by Pittsburgh.

Yet another busy period on the third day of NFL free agency in which Tampa Bay cut tackle Donald Penn and signed Anthony Collins to replace him; Oakland signed defensive end Justin Tuck; Green Bay re-signed linebacker Mike Neal and tight end Andrew Quarless; and the Jaguars formally signed defensive end Chris Clemens, defensive lineman Ziggy Hood and re-signed defensive end Jason Babin, who led the team with 7½ sacks in 2013.

Revis' business manager, John Geiger, tweeted: "Now it's Official. @Revis24 has agreed to terms with the New England Patriots!" Tampa released the three-time All-Pro before he was due a \$1.5 million bonus. Revis was cut after efforts to trade him and his \$16 million salary failed.

New England had a need at the position because Aqib Talib left for Denver. The Patriots have not announced the Revis move.

The Eagles were eager to let the world know about the addi-

tion of the 30-year-old Sproles, who figures to be a threat as a receiver, runner, returner and in pass protection against blitzers — all the things he did so well in New Orleans.

"Darren Sproles is an unbelievable offensive weapon," coach Chip Kelly said. "He can do it all: run, catch, plus he's a proven winner. And on top of that, he can bring all of those dynamic skills to the return game as well. There is no question we were all excited once we found out we were going to be able to trade for him."

Sproles had 71 catches for 604 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 220 yards and two scores in 2013.

Smith has been the face of Carolina's franchise for a decade. But he turns 35 in May and would have cost the Panthers \$7 million under this year's salary cap. The Panthers still owe Smith \$3 million.

"When I took this position I knew that difficult decisions would have to be made along the

way," general manager Dave Gettleman said.

Cincinnati no longer was the right place for Harrison, 35, who had a limited role with the Bengals after he helped the Steelers win a pair of Super Bowls.

Harrison played in 15 games, starting 10, and finished 12th on the team in tackles. He had two sacks and one interception.

"It was great for our coaches, players and fans to have James on our team last year," coach Marvin Lewis said. "He's a player everyone looks up to because of his ability, his accomplishments and his drive to be the best. He helped us win a division title with his play and with the example he set."

Tuck, soon to turn 32, got a two-year deal in Oakland. He spent nine seasons with the New York Giants during which he helped them win two Super Bowls. Tuck has made two Pro Bowls and has 60½ career sacks, 20 forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries in 127 career games.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Unanswered questions

Injuries, schedules will be considered by selection committee

By JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

The power conferences have yet to play the semifinals of their conference tournaments, but that doesn't stop the chatter of who will get what seed when the 68-team bracket for the NCAA tournament is revealed Sunday at 6 p.m. EDT.

What has fueled the latest news talk is the injury to Kansas freshman center Joel Embiid. A second opinion on his back from a specialist in Los Angeles confirmed the initial diagnosis of a stress fracture. He was told the best prescription is rest and rehabilitation.

That means he will definitely not play in the Big 12 tournament this week and the first weekend of the three-week NCAA tournament.

It isn't even sure he'll be back for the regional weekend should the Jayhawks get there.

What should the Selection Committee do? Do they seed Kansas based on the way the Jayhawks played with Embiid's inside presence or do they try and see what the Jayhawks might be like without him? It's hard to not be impressed with a team that went 23-8, has an RPI of 3 and won six games over teams in the RPI's top 25, the most of any team.

"The committee is well aware of the nature of these injuries. We will follow those injuries. We will get updates on the injuries. We already received a report this morning about an injury," committee chairman Ron Wellman said in a conference call Wednesday. "We will be well aware of the latest information and whether that individual is going to be available to his team during the tournament."

"It is a discussion point with the committee, the injury reports, how that might impact the team. Again, it is up to the individual committee member as to how much weight they want to put on that particular injury."

Here's some other teams who have situations the committee will have to look at:

Syracuse: The Orange stumbled to the finish after opening the season 25-0. Their offense certainly became stagnant, but how much of that had to do with big man Jerami Grant playing with a bad back and missing some games because of it. Will Grant use the game as much better and he makes the famed zone defense even more effective with his length.

Once considered a lock to be a No. 1 seed, Syracuse is chasing a 2 seed, 3 at the worst and the committee has to look at how much Grant's absence meant to a team that has a 27-4 record, 9 RPI and seven wins over teams in the RPI's top 50.



PHIL SCHAR/AP

The loss of forward Jerami Grant, left, seen here battling Florida State forward Okaro White for the ball, had a serious impact on the Syracuse offense. How much Grant's absence had to do with the Orange's late-season struggles is a question the NCAA selection committee will have to answer as they fill out the field of 68.



Virginia: It's not an injury that will give the committee pause over the Cavaliers, it's their schedule.

Virginia won the Atlantic Coast Conference title outright for the first time since Ralph Sampson was in Charlottesville's 33 years ago. The unbalanced schedule kept the Cavaliers from playing two games against Duke, North Carolina and Syracuse. It's not their fault, that's the schedule they were dealt and they did an impressive job. But Virginia finished with a 25-6 record, a 12 RPI and it only had 10 wins over teams in the RPI's top 100.



Wichita State: The debate of whether or not the Shockers deserve a No. 1 seed is over. They finished unbeaten, 34-0, the first team to enter the NCAA tournament undefeated since UNLV in 1991. Still, there's a nagging little itch that won't go away. The Shockers have a 5 KRPI but their strength of schedule is 334. Granted, they can only play who is on their schedule but the Missouri Valley Conference didn't provide much opposition. Wichita State has one win over an RPI top 25, two over top 50 and seven over teams ranked 51 to 100.



Michigan State: When the Spartans were fully healthy they were ranked No. 1 in the nation. No. 1 in the rankings. No. 1 in the nation.

The injuries started piling up. Adrian Payne, Keith Appling, Brandon Dawson and Gary Harris all missed various amounts of time and Michigan State was watching the losses accumulate and the Big Ten title went to rival Michigan. No longer a team that will be a 1 or 2 seed, the Spartans will probably be a 4 or 5, but if the committee looks at the injury bug and seven wins over teams with a top 50 RPI, could they move them up a line or two?



Oklahoma State: There can't be many people who didn't see the tape of star guard Marcus Smart showing a fan at Texas Tech. He was suspended for three games that were part of a seven-game slide that accounted for more than half of the Cowboys' 11 losses. Ten of Oklahoma State's losses this season were to teams in the RPI's top 50 and the Cowboys did beat five teams in that same range. Oklahoma State is better than its 40 RPI, but the committee is under no obligation to treat a suspension as it would an injury.

Men's conference tournaments

America East Conference

At Albany, N.Y.
Championship
At Higher-Seeded Team
Saturday, March 15

Albany (N.Y.) at Stony Brook
American Athletic Conference
At Memphis, Tenn.
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

Houston 68, SMU 64
Louisville 92, Rutgers 31
Clemson 76, UConn 72
Memphis 53

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Houston vs. Louisville
Cincinnati vs. UConn
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Atlantic Coast Conference

At Greensboro, N.C.
Second Round
Thursday, March 13

Florida State 67, Maryland 65
Pittsburgh 64, Wake Forest 55
N.C. State 67, Miami 58
Clemson 69, Georgia Tech 65, OT

Quarterfinals
Friday, March 14

Virginia vs. Florida State
North Carolina vs. Pittsburgh
Syracuse vs. N.C. State
Duke vs. Clemson
Semifinals
Saturday, March 15

Virginia-Florida State winner vs. North Carolina-Pittsburgh winner
Syracuse-N.C. State winner vs. Duke-Clemson winner
Atlantic 10 Conference

At Brooklyn, N.Y.
Second Round
Thursday, March 13

St. Bonaventure 82, La Salle 72
Dighton 87, Fordham 74
Richmond 76, Quinnipiac 64
UMass 65, Rhode Island 61

Quarterfinals
Friday, March 14

Saint Louis vs. St. Bonaventure
Saint Joseph's vs. Dayton
VCU vs. Richmond
George Washington vs. UMass
Semifinals
Saturday, March 15

Saint Louis-St. Bonaventure winner vs. Saint Joseph's-Dayton winner
VCU-Richmond winner vs. George Washington-UMass winner
Big East Conference

At New York
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

Seton Hall 64, Villanova 63
Providence 79, St. John's 74
Sightglass 84, DePaul 62
Xavier 68, Marquette 65

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Seton Hall vs. Providence
Cincinnati vs. Xavier
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Big Ten Conference

At Ogden, Utah
First Round
Thursday, March 13

North Dakota 79, San Francisco State 76
N. Colorado 62, N. Arizona 60
Portland State 70, Montana 63

Seminals
Friday, March 14

North Dakota vs. Portland State
Webster State vs. Northern Colorado
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Big Ten Conference

At Indianapolis
First Round
Thursday, March 13

Illinois 64, Indiana 34
Ohio State 63, Purdue 61
Minnesota 69, Penn State 56
Northwestern 67, Iowa 62

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Michigan-Illinois winner vs. Nebraska-Ohio State winner
Michigan-Minnesota winner vs. Michigan State-Northwestern winner
Big 12 Conference

At Kansas City, Mo.
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

Iowa State 91, Kansas State 85
Kansas 77, Oklahoma State 70, OT
Baylor 69, Oklahoma 74
Texas 66, West Virginia 49

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Iowa State vs. Kansas
Texas vs. Baylor
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Big West Conference

At Anaheim, Calif.
First Round
Thursday, March 13

Cal Poly 69, UC Riverside 38
Long Beach State 66, Cal State Fullerton 65

Seminals
Friday, March 14

UC Irvine 63, UC Riverside 43
Cal State Northridge 87, Hawaii 84, OT
Semifinals
Saturday, March 15

Long Beach State vs. Cal Poly
UC Irvine vs. Cal State Northridge
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Conference USA

At Paso, Texas
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

Tulsa 70, Tulane 49
Middle Tennessee 62, Old Dominion 48

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Tulsa vs. Middle Tennessee
Old Dominion vs. Middle Tennessee
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Southern Miss. 64, UTEP 56
Louisiana Tech 86, Charlotte 65

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Tulsa vs. Middle Tennessee
Southern Miss. vs. Louisiana Tech
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Mid-American Conference

At Cleveland
Third Round
Thursday, March 13

Akron 83, Ohio 77
Eastern Michigan 69, Buffalo 64

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Western Michigan vs. Akron
Toledo vs. Eastern Michigan
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

At Norfolk, Va.
Quarterfinals
Wednesday, March 12

North Carolina Central 92, Howard 46
Coppin State 83, Hampton 77

Seminals
Thursday, March 13

Morgan State 81, Florida A&M 68
Norfolk State 57, Savannah State 47

Seminals
Friday, March 14

North Carolina Central vs. Norfolk State
Coppin State vs. Morgan State
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Mountain West Conference

At Las Vegas
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

San Diego State 73, Utah State 39
UNLV 71, Wyoming 67
New Mexico 93, Fresno State 77
Boise State 75, Nevada 62

Seminals
Friday, March 14

San Diego State vs. UNLV
New Mexico vs. Boise State
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Pacific-12 Conference

At Las Vegas
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13

Arizona 71, Utah 39
Colorado 59, California 56
Oregon 63, Stanford 59

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Arizona vs. Colorado
Utah vs. Stanford
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Southeastern Conference

At Atlanta
Second Round
Thursday, March 13

Missouri 91, Texas A&M 69
South Carolina 71, Arkansas 65
US 58, Auburn 54
Mississippi 78, Mississippi State 66

Quarterfinals
Friday, March 14

Florida vs. Missouri
Tennessee vs. South Carolina
Kentucky vs. LSU
Georgia vs. Mississippi
Semifinals
Saturday, March 15

Florida-Missouri winner vs. Tennessee-South Carolina winner
Kentucky-LSU winner vs. Georgia-Mississippi winner
Southland Conference

At Katy, Texas
Second Round
Thursday, March 13

Northwestern State 88, Nicholls State 72
Sam Houston State 70, Oral Roberts 61

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Stephen F. Austin vs. Northwestern State
Texas A&M vs. Nicholls State vs. Sam Houston State
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Southwestern Athletic Conference

At Alabama
Thursday, March 13

Alabama State 64, Alabama A&M 55
Alabama A&M 69, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 50

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Texas Southern vs. Alabama State
Prairie View vs. Alabama A&M
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
Sun Belt Conference

At New Orleans
First Round
Thursday, March 13

UALR 74, Troy 61
Texas-Arlington 68, Louisiana-Monroe 65

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Arkansas State vs. UALR
Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Texas-Arlington
Semifinals
Saturday, March 15

Georgia State vs. Arkansas State-UALR
Western Kentucky vs. Louisiana-Lafayette-Texas-Arlington winner
Western Kentucky vs. Texas-Arlington winner
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners
At Las Vegas
Thursday, March 13

Utah Valley 83, Texas Tech 63
Idaho 73, UMKC 70
Idaho State 67, Chicago State 62
New Mexico State 70, Seattle 68

Seminals
Friday, March 14

Utah Valley vs. Idaho
Idaho State vs. New Mexico State
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Semifinal winners

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wiggins leads Jayhawks past Cowboys in OT

No. 10 Kansas set to face No. 16 Iowa State in semis

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas freshman Andrew Wiggins has spent plenty of time talking to his older brother, Wichita State guard Nick Wiggins, about what it's like to play in the postseason.

You see, the elder Wiggins was part of the Shockers' Final Four team a year ago. "He just said, 'You wouldn't believe how amazing it is if you are not there to witness it,'" Andrew Wiggins recalled Thursday. "So I just want to be able to feel that feeling with my team, with my coach, and give the fans a great year."

He's off to a good start.

Wiggins scored 30 points to lead the No. 10 Jayhawks to a 77-70 victory over Oklahoma State in overtime in the Big 12 tournament. His performance, including the tying jumper near the end of regulation, pushed Kansas into a semifinal matchup Friday night with No. 16 Iowa State.

The Cyclones held on for a 91-85 victory over Kansas State in an earlier quarterfinal.

The second semifinal will feature third-seeded Texas, which romped to a 66-49 victory over West Virginia, against seventh-seeded Baylor, which pulled off a 78-73 upset of Oklahoma.

Wiggins has made it clear since his arrival at Kansas that he was headed for the NBA after this season. He's made the most of it so far, averaging more points than any freshman in school history and helping the Jayhawks to their 10th consecutive regular-season championship.

"I thought coming in that we needed to try and change him, and change him in a way where he was outwardly, visibly more

energetic and passionate," Kansas coach Bill Self said, "because he's a stone-face on the court. That would have been the worst thing we could have ever done."

"His demeanor has allowed him not to have highs and not to have lows," Self explained. "He's had a few highs, but his lows haven't been real lows."

Those highs? Well, that sterling performance against Oklahoma State on Thursday came on the heels of a 41-point outburst in a losing effort at West Virginia last weekend.

"I know that you never know too much, you know? I'm always open to new things," Wiggins said, trying to explain his hot streak. "Coach teaches me new things every day. Just preparation and practice. Always play hard, run the floor, defend your man."

Wiggins has done a good job of all those things against the Cyclones. He scored 17 points when they met in Ames in January, and then had 29 points in Lawrence a few weeks later.

He'll try to make it three impressive performances on Friday night.

"If you can't get up for this then you're not ready to play," said the Cyclones' Naz Long, one of several players who will guard Wiggins. "These are the games that you've got to live for."

The Cyclones (24-7) will be chasing their school-record eighth win against a Top 25 opponent when they face the Jayhawks (24-8), the defending tournament champ. It would break a tie for the record held with the 2000 team, which won Iowa State's lone Big 12 tournament title.

"We've just got to have confidence," Cyclones coach Fred Hoiberg said.



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

Kansas guard Andrew Wiggins, right, is covered by Oklahoma State guard Marcus Smart during the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Conference tournament in Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday. Wiggins scored 30 points as the Jayhawks won 77-70 in overtime.

Conference tournament roundup

Seton Hall hands No. 3 Villanova stunning defeat

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sterling Gibbs hit a step-back jumper at the buzzer and Seton Hall took No. 3 Villanova 64-63 in a thrilling Big East quarterfinal Thursday, a loss that could cost the Wildcats a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Eugene Teague had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the eighth-seeded Pirates (17-16), who advanced to the Big East tournament semifinals for the first time in 13 years.

Josh Hart came off the bench and scored 18 to lead the top-seeded Wildcats (28-4), beaten only twice in 18 regular-season conference games while winning their first outright Big East title since 1982. Both losses were blowouts by Doug McDermott and Creighton.

No. 14 Creighton 84, DePaul 62: Doug McDermott put on a dazzling shooting display in his Big East tournament debut, scoring a record 27 of his 35 points in the first half for the Bluejays during a victory over the Blue Demons.

The nation's leading scorer hit six of his first seven three-point attempts, sending second-seeded Creighton (25-6) into the semifinals Friday night.

Pac-12

No. 4 Arizona 71, Utah 39: At Las Vegas, Nick Johnson scored 14 points, T.J. McConnell added 13 and the No. 4 Wildcats overhauled the Utes defensively in a rout that tied for the most lopsided game in Pac-12 tournament history.

After playing two close games against Utah during the regular season, top-seeded Arizona (29-3) ran through the record book against the Utes (21-11), setting marks for fewest points allowed, fewest field goals (12) and lowest shooting percentage (25).

UCLA 82, Oregon 63: The Bruins ended the regular season with a thud, losing to a team that had won two of its previous eight 17 games.

After a few days to rest and reflect, UCLA took out its frustrations on the Ducks.

Playing well at both ends, UCLA turned what was expected to be close game into a rout, using a big second-half run to race past Oregon 82-63 in the quarterfinals of the Pac-12 tournament.

The Bruins advance to Friday's semifinal against sixth-seeded Stanford, which beat Arizona

State 79-58 Thursday night.

American Athletic Conference

No. 5 Louisville 92, Rutgers 31: At Memphis, Tenn., Chris Jones scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half, and the fifth-ranked Cardinals routed the Scarlet Knights in the quarterfinals of the American Athletic Conference tournament.

The Cardinals (27-5) have won three straight and 10 of their last 11 as they look for a third straight tournament title even if they're only in the American for one season. Louisville split the regular-season title with Cincinnati, but lost the top seed on a coin flip.

Houston 68, No. 25 SMU 64: Jherrod Stiggers scored 19 points, including five three-pointers, and the Cougars beat the No. 25 Mustangs in the quarterfinals of the American Athletic Conference tournament.

The Cougars (17-15) will face No. 5 Louisville in the semifinals. Canner Cunningham led SMU (23-9), the tournament's third seed, with 14 points, while Markus Kennen scored 13 and grabbed nine rebounds. Nick Russell had 10 points.

Big 12

Baylor 78, No. 17 Oklahoma 73: At Kansas City, Mo., Isaiah Austin scored 18 points and the Bears held on after blowing most of a 21-point lead for a victory over the Sooners in the Big 12 tournament quarterfinals.

Cory Jefferson added 14 points and 11 rebounds for No. 7 seed Baylor (23-10), which became the first lower-seeded team to win in this year's tournament.

No. 16 Iowa State 91, Kansas State 85: Melvin Ejim had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Dustin Hogue added 19 points and 10 boards and the No. 16 Cyclones held on through a tense final minute to beat the Wildcats in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament.

Georges Niang added 18 points and Naz Long finished with 14 points for the fourth-seeded Cyclones (24-7), who advanced to play Kansas in Friday's semifinals.

ACC

Clemson 69, Georgia Tech 65: At Greensboro, N.C., Damarcus Harrison scored six of his 12 points in the final minute of OT to help the Tigers beat the Yellow Jackets in the second round

of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

All-ACC guard K.J. McDaniels scored 18 points on 4-of-15 shooting to help the sixth-seeded Tigers (20-11) earn their second ACC tournament victory since 2008.

Florida State 67, Maryland 65: Boris Bojanovs took a pass from Okaro White and threw down a dunk with 0.4 seconds left to lift the Seminoles past the Terrapins.

Bojanovs' dunk capped a tense final 2 minutes that saw Maryland fight back from an 11-point deficit and tie the tie. But the final score advanced the ninth-seeded Seminoles (19-12) and ended the eighth-seeded Terrapins' long run in the ACC as they head for the Big Ten this summer.

SEC

Missouri 91, Texas A&M 83 (2OT): At Atlanta, Jabari Brown scored 26 points, Earnest Ross added 24 and the Tigers held off the Aggies in double overtime.

Missouri (22-10) had quite a tussle against Texas A&M. The Tigers twice failed to get off a shot with chances to win the game in the closing seconds, but eventually wore down the Aggies.

SPORTS

Baseball Down Under

Australians to get MLB introduction

By DENNIS PASSA
The Associated Press

Former Boston Red Sox coach Jon Deeble, who's been around Australian baseball for more than 30 years, figures next week-end's season-opening, two-game series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks in Sydney will have a "massive impact" on the sport Down Under.

Certainly there's plenty of room for growth.

Baseball is not among the top 10 or 15 participation sports in Australia, well behind Australian Rules Football, rugby league, rugby union and cricket. Add to that list, among others, tennis, golf, basketball, the women's sport of netball and, according to government figures, recreational skiing.

Deeble manages the "Southern Thunder" Australian all-star team that will face the Dodgers on Thursday and the Diamondbacks the following day ahead of regular-season games on March 22-23 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. He says having "the best in the world" in Australia will translate into much-needed exposure.

"It will help the Australian Baseball League, kids who play the game, and that will convert hopefully into registrations,"

Deeble, who is a Pacific Rim scout for the Red Sox, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"It's also an opportunity for the players to see where they are really at, and something to ascribe to."

SEE DOWN ON PAGE 29

The Arizona Diamondbacks' Paul Goldschmidt uses a cricket bat to hit a cricket ball at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney on Nov. 4.

RICK RYCKOFF/AP



Kansas survives overtime thriller with Oklahoma State

College basketball, Page 31